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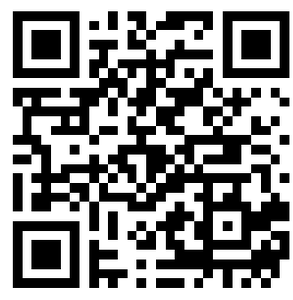

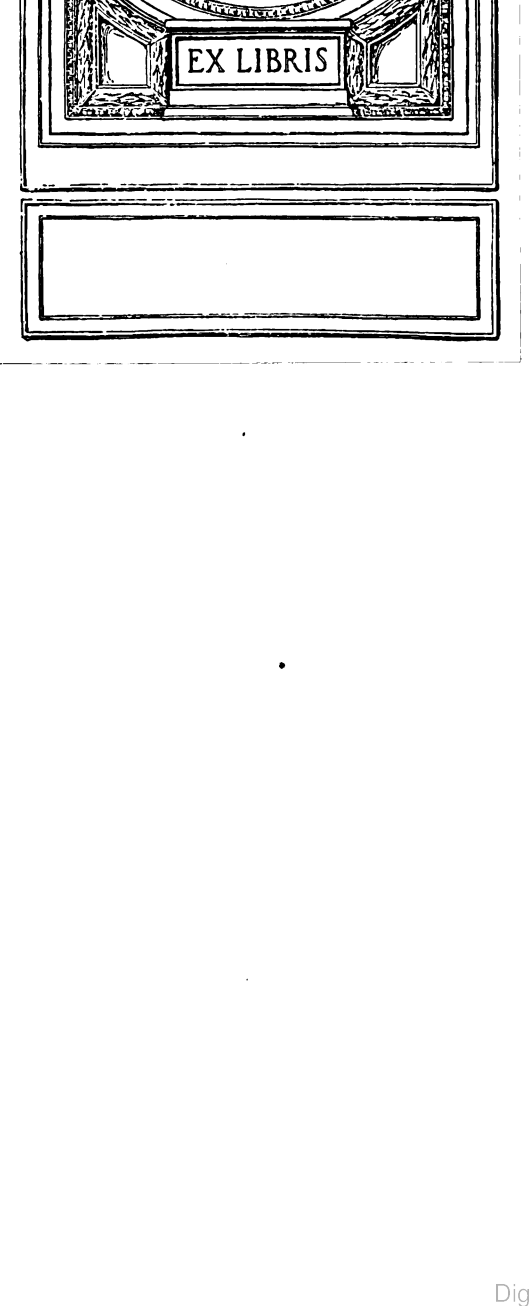

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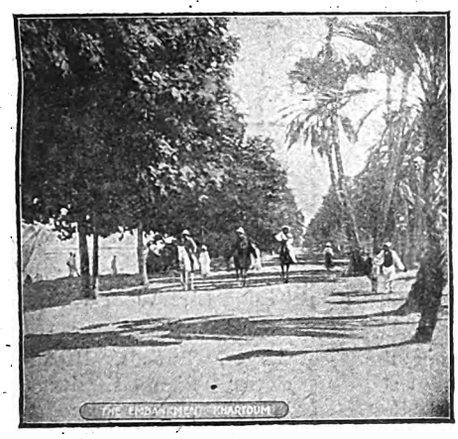

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 712—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Box and Cox in Albania.

If Albania must have a revolution every six months, it is well that each should be as nearly bloodless as possible. When Mgr. Fan Noli raised the standard of revolt last June, the Government of Elias Bey Vrioni fled precipitately to the coast and escaped abroad. Ahmed Bey Zogu, who, although not at the time a Minister, was the power behind the Cabinet, put up a nominal struggle, but eventually sought refuge on Yugoslav territory. The casualties in the course of such fighting as took place were not serious. Now comes the turn of Ahmed Bey Zogu, who, from the friendly shelter of Belgrade, has been able to engineer a counter-revolution, and, without meeting with any resistance worth mentioning, has successfully established himself again in Tirana. Mgr. Fan Noli, the late Prime Minister, emulated the discretion of his predecessor and fled by way of Valona to Italy. The ease with which Ahmed Bey Zogu has turned the tables on him suggests that during his brief tenure of office Mgr. Fan Noli was more concerned with administrative or other measures than with strengthening his own position or the defences of the country. This is, in a way, to his credit, although it has led to further unrest in the country. Albania, however, now has this advantage—the pendulum will not swing quite so easily in future, for the reason that, when revolution becomes established as a national industry or pastime, the country is liable to suffer from the drawbacks of publicity. Ahmed Bey attracted little or no notice during his recent stay in Serbia; Mgr. Fan Noli, on the other hand, if he were tempted to convert, as his rival did, the fleshpots of exile into munitions of war, would find that a much sharper watch was being kept on his movements. His wiser policy would be, therefore, to come to terms with Ahmed Bey Zogu.

An International Nuisance.

It is high time that Albania took itself seriously, even if other people find difficulty in doing so. If the Albanians as a whole have nothing better to do than to range themselves behind anyone who offers to upset the *status quo*, it is the duty of those who claim to be their leaders to see that the opportunity for indulging in the sport is denied them. No one outside the country will want to inquire into the rights or wrongs of the quarrel between Ahmed Bey Zogu and Mgr. Fan Noli. The fact that the Government of the one is supposed to be pleasing to the Yugoslavs, while that of the other is preferred by the Italians, ought to be sufficient to bring the two men together in a common effort to promote the interests of Albania without foreign interference. Ahmed Bey Zogu is credited with being Albania's master mind; Mgr. Fan Noli has knowledge of the outside world which the new Prime Minister lacks, and has played a creditable part on behalf of Albania in the League of Nations. There would seem, therefore, to be special reasons why the two should try to work together for their country's good. They represent, no doubt, conflicting schools of thought, Ahmed Bey standing for a feudal system of government, while his rival has more modern ideas. If, however, each could agree to refrain from working for his own interests, they might between them evolve a suitable administration for Albania, or, in any case, confer upon the country the boon of a few years' freedom from political upheaval. As a result of the agreement recently reached in Rome, it is to be hoped that both Italy and Yugoslavia will refrain from trying to persuade their respective *protégés* that they are individually the salt of the earth, or, at least, of Albania; but will rather bring home to both the fact that, unless they turn over a new leaf, they are qualifying to be regarded, together with their country, as international nuisances.

Communism in the Balkans.

It matters little what serves to bring Yugoslavia and Bulgaria together, provided that the two Governments have an opportunity for a friendly discussion, which, it is to be expected, will range over a variety of subjects. The main purpose of the Bulgarian Prime Minister's visit to Belgrade is said to be to arrange a basis of co-operation against Bolshevist intrigues in the Balkans. These intrigues, as all other intrigues from whatever source, batten on suspicion and mistrust, and the Soviet régime in Russia has merely taken advan-

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tage of a state of affairs provided it by the Balkan peoples. Accordingly, the best weapon against the danger is to remove the suspicion and mistrust as between the various countries, and in each country to remove the causes of the violent political antagonisms by which practically every State is racked. Communism in Bulgaria would, now at least, make a very poor showing, for all Moscow's help, if it were not for the fact that a large proportion of the peasants, strongly anti-Communist at heart, had been led to suppose that they stand to gain more from the Communists than from the bourgeois parties. They are undoubtedly mistaken, but Communism remains a menace until they are convinced by practical measures of their error. In Yugoslavia the Soviet propagandists have known how to use to their advantage Croatian dissatisfaction with Serbian centralisation. The Belgrade Government is now reported to have decided to dissolve the Croatian Peasant Party, depriving its members of the right to take part in the coming General Election, on the ground of its relations with Soviet Russia. Active steps against the insidious propaganda of Bolshevism are undoubtedly called for; but it is to be hoped that M. Pashitch's Government will not be led to suppose that, because the Raditch party has been eliminated, a rigid system of centralisation has become more popular in Yugoslavia.

Macedonia's Problem.

Macedonia for the moment has ceased to be a problem for others, and has, instead, a problem of her own. Internal dissensions have preoccupied the Revolutionary Organisation ever since the murder of Todor Alexandroff. The trouble started with the enlistment of Soviet aid by a section headed by Peter Chaüleff, one of the governing Triumvirate. His action was repudiated by his colleagues, Alexandroff and M. Protoguéroff, and shortly afterwards Alexandroff was murdered. No fewer than four prominent members of the Communist section in the organisation were killed by way of reprisal; but Chaüleff escaped. He was, however, condemned to death, and the man to whose lot it fell to execute this order has at last run him to earth in Milan, where he was shot in a bar in the centre of the city on December 23. Nothing could be calculated more to alienate foreign sympathy with the Macedonian movement than the events of the last six months. It is difficult to recommend autonomy for a people who prefer to settle all disagreements by assassination. Moreover, those under whose jurisdiction such a people is placed are provided with a strong argument for employing brute force as a corrective to murder tactics. M. Protoguéroff, the surviving member of the Triumvirate, is thus left with the task of bringing the Macedonian movement into constitutional channels or of watching the gradual elimination of the Macedonians by violence from within or without.

Egypt Divided.

The Egyptian Parliament has been dissolved, and new elections will take place on February 24. It cannot be said that the outlook for the country is promising, unless the electorate is capable of realising, and of recording its conviction, that Zaghloulism is hopelessly unpractical for Egypt's immediate needs. The election manifesto signed by Zaghloul Pasha shows that the Nationalist leader has learnt nothing from recent events in the country. He indulges in a bitter denunciation of the Government, without apparently any admission that the circumstances governing Ziwar Pasha's actions were beyond his control and were, indeed, the direct outcome of Zaghloul Pasha's own policy. The return to power of the Zaghloulists must almost inevitably lead to a further tightening of Great Britain's hold; for it is out of the question that this country should tolerate a continuance of the only tactics of which Zaghloul Pasha has shown himself capable. It would be well if the Egyptian electorate could face this elementary fact. Great Britain sincerely desires to see Egypt managing her own affairs and to reduce British responsibility to a minimum; but no British Government can allow itself to be dragooned by a murder campaign or by any other methods. Egypt has paid heavily for Zaghloul Pasha's mishandling of the situation, and the only way out of the present unsatisfactory position is to place abler men in power, who are capable of governing and will not allow Egypt's policy to be dictated by a handful of students or desperadoes. Great Britain does not ask Egypt to be less Nationalist, but merely more practical.

INDIA.

The Old Year.

A year ago we wrote of India as prosperous but perplexed, and the description still holds good, but there are indications that some at least of the perplexities are being slowly straightened out. Extremist politicians indeed will, we fear, dissent from this view. On the one hand, they are committed to the fantastic creed of progressive impoverishment, and consequently they are bound to ignore such obvious facts as the flood of imports of gold, which show that the country has money to spend, though the method of spending may be wasteful. On the other hand, their own little perplexities, which they are apt to confuse with those of the country, are as troublesome as they were twelve months ago, and as we write they are trying to accomplish at Belgaum what they failed to do at Coconada, and heal their breaches with a salve of formulas. In private, we believe some of them have come rather closer to reality during the year, but they cannot be expected to say so in public just yet, and their deliberations, if the word be appropriate, are of much less importance than the tendencies which are in operation elsewhere.

Liquidation.

In two directions in particular the outlook has become clearer during the past year. The question of the Khilafat has not been settled, for Indian Moslems cling to the institution, or rather to their conception of it, unhistorical as that conception is, and desire to see an end of the present interregnum, but it has passed, we hope for ever, out of the region of Indian politics, to which it never really belonged. In the Punjab again, the openly rebellious movement of a section of the Sikhs shows signs of giving way, now that the slow-witted countryside has at last thrown some of its weight into the scale of common sense. In these respects, at any rate, things are better than they were, and if we take the long view it is possible to say the same regarding the tension between Hindus and Moslems, which at the moment is the ugliest thing in India. In this case liquidation must be a tedious business at the best, and it may perhaps be said that the first step towards it has been taken, now

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that the facts of the situation have been impressed on people who had kept their eyes shut for so long.

The Prospect.

The real hope for India lies, as we have often said, in an extension of the area of public life, and the consequent destruction of the closed circle within which a small number of active politicians delight to play. This change, too, can only be slow, but there are signs that it has set in, and, once started, it is not likely to be checked. The mobilisation of opinion in the Sikh countryside does not stand alone. In the Deccan the growing non-Brahmin movement derives its force largely from the soil, and we shall not be surprised if the sturdy peasants of the Central Provinces decide shortly to take a hand. Moslem opinion, too, is gathering force, especially in Bengal, where the community consists largely of peasants, and from other rural areas we hear whispers that the people are, at any rate, beginning to think. If the Indian ship of state has taken a somewhat erratic course in recent years, the fault has lain largely in the want of ballast. As we wrote recently, the most important thing now is to bring the forces of rural stedfastness into play, and the indications are that the year which opens to-day may witness definite progress in this direction.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Christmas.

The traditional spirit of Christmas was this year much more widely remembered and indulged in than it has been at any time since the War. Not only was the holiday fortunate in its incidence—most people being able to avoid the dull routine of daily work from Wednesday night until Monday morning—but there was undoubtedly a more contented atmosphere about. This sense of stability was shown in various ways, but most notably in the abundance with which people showered about presents and Christmas cards (said a few years ago to be a doomed industry). The mails were heavier than they had been for a long time.

In general, then, content and a sense of peace prevailed. But the weather was a dazzling exception. It was as unlike Christmas as possible. Mild and rainy at first, it wantoned a few hours away in brilliant sunshine, and then, on Boxing Day and after, blew and tugged itself about in a sixty-mile-an-hour rage. Really it was the gustiest holiday that I can recall. Traffic and people were swept off the roads, which became quite desolate. Driving through London on Christmas and Boxing Day, one met scarcely anyone; even the taxi-drivers, one had to suppose, were somewhere enjoying a rich retreat.

On Saturday night, at a late hour, things took on a more festive appearance, and the West End, with its wet, glistening streets reflecting all the electric signs, became for children, both real and temporary, a fairyland of delight. Every available automobile seemed to have been chartered for theatre parties, and getting from Piccadilly Circus to, say, Cambridge Circus was like being in a bus in Oxford Street on the worst days of the Christmas shopping.

The Journalists' Respite.

One found on Christmas and Boxing Day, when no newspapers were published, that those superior people who affect to despise journals were in a sad minority. There was a real thirst for news, which was the more unassuagable in that the holiday interrupted the Test Match at Sydney. When, however, news of that event did come through, it was satisfactory—quite good enough, in fact, to cause more than one enthusiast to "have another" for the sake of the health of Gilligan's team.

The poor journalists really were the sole people to benefit from the two-days' absence of news, but there is no question that they as much as anyone deserved a respite. For they are, whatever we may say at other times about them, quite indispensable.

In Cobbett's Line.

Mr. T. H. W. Crosland, who died last week, made many enemies, but he cleft a mark in the history of his time. The vigour of his words was combined with conviction and with wit, and he will, I imagine, have gained a place in that distinguished band of strongly literary journalists which includes Cobbett and Cecil Chesterton. It was the fashion, in the pusillanimous "notices" of his death, to praise his verse at the expense of his prose—as if, indeed, "The Unspeakable Scot" were not still a thrilling delight, but the truth is that little of his actual work will survive for its own sake. Crosland will be remembered as one of the few journalists of our modern time who expressed his opinions without fear and certainly without favour; it was not so much his opinions as his expression of them that marked him from his fellows. He will, in short, be forgotten when the leader-writers of, say, the *Telegraph* and the *Spectator* are remembered—but not till then.

Christmas Accidents.

One always seems to pick up the newspapers of December 27 with presentiment of reports of holiday accidents, but this year people were more than usually horrified by the disaster to the air mail which befel last Wednesday. The air services from England to the Continent had been so safe and so consistent that this unhappy accident came as a real shock. How it happened may never be found out, but it is extremely satisfactory to know that other passengers were not deterred by it from flying. Those who have had actual flying experience are the last, in fact, to be apprehensive of disaster to the aeroplane.

1924 Publishing.

If there be anyone who can take heart from the fact that 1924 was a "record" year in the number of books published, one must, as Shakespeare says, commend him to his own content. There are those who would even introduce the word "progress" *à propos* of the fact that during the last year 327 more books have been published than in

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the previous "record" year of 1913. Nor is it really instructive to see how the figures compare with last year's. Fiction, of course, maintains itself at the head in frivolous, moribund splendour; but books on Technology, Science, History, Medicine, and Geography have all decreased. So, too, have those on Education, Military and Naval, Philology, Agriculture and Gardening, and Domestic Arts. To some minds these decreases appear as serious, and are scarcely compensated by the increases in Biography, Descriptive Travel, Religion, Poetry and Drama, Games, and Sociology. The general conclusion is that there has been a slight gain on the part of the lighter side of literature; but even that is not certain. What is quite obvious is that the publishers either enjoy unusual prosperity or have uncommon audacity.

Mr. William Archer.

Mr. William Archer, who died the other day, was in some ways a typical product of the later nineteenth century, at once an agnostic and a scholar, sincere but—it must be confessed—dull. As a dramatic critic the authority of his statements could not be questioned, but we know, even in our own time, how unpersuasive those learned critics are who do not leaven their writings with humour or satire. Simply, we cannot in these later days be so painfully in earnest about the value of the stage. As a translator of Ibsen into English Mr. Archer performed a considerable service. Whether that service was of benefit to English drama and letters is perhaps an open question, but in all probability the propaganda stage of the drama was an inevitable one in any case. And of Mr. Archer as dramatist I am not competent to speak, having seen neither his early plays nor "The Green Goddess." But there is no doubt that the austerity of his views immensely impressed a great many clever people, and it was probably not his fault that their conversion to Ibsenism has not been permanent.

The Work at the Mint.

There were few things more pitiable just after the War than the work of the Royal Mint. Some of the War medals issued were appallingly inartistic; nor was the merit of certain coins much higher. But there has since that time been a very great improvement, and, as shown by the Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller for 1923, the Mint has really regained its place as the centre of the art of medallic design for Britain and the Empire. Its authorities are freely consulting unofficial experts, and it is suggested that the Mint should accept work, in the execution of medals and seals, for non-official bodies. Quite often the value of such an industry is not perceived until some centuries after it has decayed; but the art of medallic design is in truth one well worth fostering.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

King Hussein arranged to leave Akaba on December 29 for Basra.

The second son of the Amir of Afghanistan, a boy of one year, died at Kabul on December 19.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught, who are touring in India, left Calcutta on December 28 for Bikanir.

It was reported last week from Baghdad that formal ratifications of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty had been exchanged.

The Queen of Iraq arrived in Baghdad recently from Jeddah. She was met by her son, the Crown Prince, and the Mayor of Baghdad.

Mr. Howard Carter arrived in Cairo last week from Europe, and hopes to resume excavation work on the tomb of King Tutankhamen next month.

The New Year's Day proclamation parade at Delhi will be attended by eight naval officers and 140 ratings on a sight-seeing visit from "H.M.S. Chatham."

The Earl of Reading recently unveiled, in Calcutta, a statue of Lord Ronaldshay in commemoration of his term as Governor of Bengal from 1917 to 1922.

The inquiries made by the Roumanian police following upon the arrest of 430 Communist members of various secret terrorist societies have resulted in the alleged discovery of three organisations supported by Soviet money.

The Bulgarian Premier, M. Zankoff, arrived at Belgrade on December 26, and conferred with M. Pashitch. He left for Bucharest last Sunday. His object is to co-operate with Yugoslavia and Roumania in forming an anti-Bolshevist front.

An Institute of Jewish Studies in the new Hebrew University, Jerusalem, was opened December 22, in the presence of Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner. It was emphasised in the speeches that the University was open to all nationalities and creeds.

The International Court of Justice will hold an extraordinary session on January 12, 1925, in order to deal with the controversy between the Greek and Turkish Governments as to the interpretation of the word *établis* in the Convention for the Exchange of Populations.

The Indian National Congress last Friday passed a resolution ratifying the pact between Mr. Gandhi and the Swarajists which suspends non-co-operation and allows the Swarajists to represent the National Congress in the Legislature. Hasrat Mohani was among the opponents of the resolution.

According to *The Times* Cairo correspondent, King Fuad has approved the appointment of Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the well-known Egyptian explorer, at present First Secretary of the Egyptian Legation in Washington, as First Secretary in London, vice Mahmud Bey Sabet, who goes in the same capacity to Rome.

In view of delays which have occurred in paying gratuities to Indian police officers who have been wounded and pensions to dependents of those killed on duty, the Indian Government has addressed a strong circular to the local governments urging that every possible step should be taken in future to avoid such delay.

Mr. Meyer Elias Sassoon, of Bombay, India, of Port Breton, Dinard, France, and of Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London, W., of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., Ltd., merchants, of Bombay, who died on November 5, aged 69, left, exclusive of property abroad, estate in England of the gross value of £64,636, with net personalty nil. His will opens with the following statement:—"Being the descendant of Jewish ancestors, who, having left Baghdad, settled upwards of a century ago in India, and having myself been born in Bombay, my domicile of origin is British Indian," and he added that it was his intention to retain such domicile.

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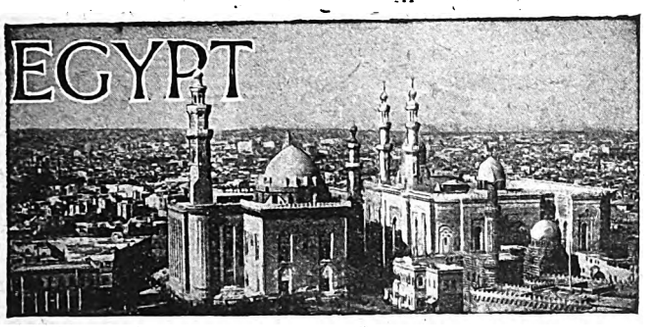
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 20.

Parliament.

The period for which the King adjourned the House expires on Christmas Eve, but it seems certain that it will not be allowed to reassemble. In all probability, long before this reaches you, the decree dissolving the present Parliament and ordering new elections will have been promulgated.

Dissolution was clearly forecast in Ziwar Pasha's final reply to the petition presented by the Deputies for a reduction in the period of adjournment. The Prime Minister, in notifying that he had advised the King to reject the petition, pointed out that the special circumstances that had prompted the adjournment still existed, and that the atmosphere was so charged that a resumption of Parliamentary debates would merely further excite the spirits and aggravate the situation. Everyone is, indeed, making preparations for new elections, which it is expected will be fixed for either the last week in February or the first week in March.

An indication of the change in feeling has been forthcoming in the by-election in Sharkia, where the Wafdist candidate only obtained one-third of the majority that his deceased predecessor secured, and in the elections for the Native Bar Council, which, in spite of obstructions set up by the Wafdist element—to cover the defeat which it anticipated—resulted in the election by an unprecedented number of votes of a non-Wafdist leader and non-Wafdist members of the Council. It may here be added that the three more important Wafdist candidates who held in the last Cabinet the portfolios of Public Works, Communications, and Wakfs, and who took a leading part in the obstructive tactics at the election meeting, were at the bottom of the poll with but one vote apiece.

These two events are certainly an instructive indication of the way the wind is now blowing, but the appearance of a non-Wafdist majority in the Chamber will largely depend on the activities which the Liberal Constitutionals and Watanists display during the electioneering campaign, and the extent to which the people are convinced that the Wafdists will not be allowed again to take office.

The Government's Work.

The present Government is steadily repairing the injustice and harm done by its predecessor. I reported a week or so ago that Aly Gamal Eddin Pasha, who had been dismissed in such disgraceful fashion by the Wafd and replaced as Under-Secretary of State for the Interior by Nokrashi Effendi, had been reinstated in that post, from which Nokrashi had been dismissed as one of the first acts of the new Cabinet. This week Hilmy Issa Pasha, Mudir of the Gharbia, who had been dismissed by the Wafd for his actions during the elections in trying to stop intimidation of electors and had been shamefully prosecuted, was appointed Additional Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, where he will superintend the coming elections; while his successor at Tanta, whose only qualification was that he was a rabid Wafdist, has been put on pension and replaced by Rashwan Mahfuz Pasha, another Mudir who, like Issa Pasha, had been dismissed and prosecuted by the Wafd for similar reasons. In addition, so many complaints have been received with regard to the injustice done to Omdas all over the country under the late régime, which carried out wholesale dismissals of any who did not subscribe to its views, that the Cabinet has appointed a special commission to investigate every case and recommend what action should be taken.

Al Azhar.

All these measures cannot fail to have their effect on the prospects of the Wafd at the elections, and what may be considered as a further blow to that party is the decision of the Council of Ministers to appoint a special committee under Sidky Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, to examine and report, with the utmost dispatch, on the grievances of the inmates of Al Azhar.

The Wafd must indeed bitterly regret its procrastination in this matter. Al Azhar had always been its great ally, but about six weeks ago it struck and adopted a hostile attitude towards the late Cabinet on account of the non-satisfaction of its demands, submitted and reported upon earlier in the summer. The Wafd lost an invaluable opportunity of strengthening its relations with this element, and now the intervention of the present Government has converted Al Azhar into a strong asset and drawn a formidable force on to its own side against the Wafd.

The London "Plot."

Much surprised amusement has been caused among the foreign communities here by the news of the measures taken in London to protect Cabinet Ministers from the plot which was said to have been hatched in Egypt against their lives. As far as can be ascertained, no positive informa-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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tion was conveyed to London, merely a warning that it had been said that such a scheme had been talked about in certain Egyptian circles. It was certainly never thought for one moment that the authorities in London would be seized with such a panic as the measures taken would indicate, or that they would allow such publicity to be given to their precautions.

We out here, who live in the midst of plots and during the past five years have without any special protection daily had to run the gauntlet of assassins, who shoot from behind, cannot restrain a smile of pity for the perturbation which a mere rumour has caused in high circles in London. It is certainly sincerely regrettable that in London such a serious view should have been taken of the matter, not merely because of the ridicule it has aroused, but also because of its effect on the irresponsible "boys" in Cairo, who are daily giving expression, without any idea of executing them, to just as wild and foolish notions, for they, seeing the stir caused by this wholly unconfirmed rumour, will be encouraged by the conviction, which the telegrams received here certainly will convey to minds such as theirs, that their vapourings can make British Cabinet Ministers tremble in their shoes.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, December 18.

The Forthcoming Elections.

Public interest is centred exclusively on the forthcoming elections, or, rather, in the preparations for them. Neither Dr. Nintchitch's journey to Rome and the questions of Fiume and the Adriatic in connection with it, nor current events in Albania, notwithstanding the gravity of their importance, especially to Serbia, can rouse Yugoslav public opinion at the moment. Everybody knows that no question can be finally dealt with until after the general election, and that every solution must be in the nature of a provisional measure until it has been approved by the majority in the Skupshtina.

Fiume Again.

The Yugoslav Government is quite sensible of this. It is also the reason that, despite the best intentions on the part of Dr. Nintchitch, no agreement was reached in Rome and the conference in Venice had to be interrupted. Only questions of minor importance have been dealt with, whereas the most important of all—that of Fiume—did not advance by one hair's breadth. As a matter of fact, it would be a puzzle to discover a mutually fair settlement of this matter. Without Yugoslav trade, Fiume is dead. On the other hand, Yugoslavia can scarcely be expected to furnish proof that it was wise and right to detach Fiume from its natural backlands. Moreover, Yugoslavia has harbours of her own in Sushak and Bakar. The harbour of Sushak is unfortunately not adequately equipped at the moment, nor can it ever be adequately developed if all Yugoslavia's trade is to go, as from now and henceforth, over Fiume. In other words, Yugoslavia cannot afford to let her own harbour of Sushak be killed by Fiuman competition, and for this reason Yugoslavia cannot defer to Italy's wishes in this respect. Italy, on her part, would like to prove that the annexation of the town of Fiume does not spell its economic ruin, and is, therefore, making great efforts to obtain from Yugoslavia special privileges for it, although this is clearly contrary to Yugoslav interests.

But the dilemma is not confined to this fundamental difference. The most trying part of the business is that the problem has to be solved in an atmosphere of national tension, and that, unfortunately, Italy is constantly adding fresh fuel to the flames of this deplorable hostility.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

It is common knowledge by now that in consequence of the War, Italy acquired Yugoslav territory with close on 600,000 inhabitants. It is only too intelligible that the Yugoslavs of the kingdom should not be indifferent to the fate of their conationals in Italy. Many a time has the Yugoslav Press emphatically explained that good and friendly relations with Italy cannot possibly be established until the national rights of the Yugoslavs in Italy are duly safeguarded. Here one must point out that the Yugoslavs in Italy have proved themselves most loyal citizens. During all the time they have been under Italy, not one Yugoslav has incurred penalties for seditious action. In contrast to the Italian provinces, where scarcely 50 per cent. of the young men of military age are accepted for service, almost without exception some 97 per cent. to 100 per cent. are called to the colours in the Yugoslav regions, and their Italian officers are fain to admit that the Yugoslav troops represent the best material in the Italian army. Thus Italy has every reason to grant her Yugoslav citizens at least the most elementary national rights. But in spite of her own experiences with Austria, and Austria-Hungary's experiences with her subject nationalities, this is what Italy will not do. Latterly, an embargo was placed on all performances (concerts, plays, and so on) in Slovene or Serbo-Croatian. The prohibition was presently withdrawn, but not before it had created a profound and painful impression throughout Yugoslavia. Obviously, negotiations in Venice were not facilitated by incidents like this. It is in the interests of peace and good neighbourliness between Italy and Yugoslavia that the former should certainly demand unstinting loyalty from her Yugoslavs, but also that she on her part should be loyal in her attitude towards them, and allow them, as we said before, the most elementary civic and national rights. This, and this alone, can provide an auspicious approach to a solution of Fiume, and, with it, of the whole Adriatic question.

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Albania.

If Yugoslav public opinion has shown itself indifferent to the negotiations in Rome, despite their grave importance, it has similarly refused to get excited over the alarming news from Albania, which appears once more to be plunged in complete anarchy. Apparently all that thunderstorm atmosphere of the Balkans of yore is now concentrated in Albania.

There are various reasons for this Albanian unrest; but chief of them is surely to be sought in unsettled agrarian conditions. In spite of great natural resources, the country's expenses at present exceed its revenue, and it is dependent upon imported foodstuffs. In the olden days Albania's food problem was forcibly solved by the adjoining regions, which the Albanians used to raid regularly for cattle. But now this method of obtaining provisions is out of date, and the result is trouble in the interior. The cultured Albanian (the *intelligenzia*) is for the most part keenly national and also patriotic, and therefore every Government is in danger as soon as it too obviously enjoys the countenance of some foreign Power. Mgr. Fan Noli's Government had friends too good to be approved of on the other side of the Adriatic.

Albania is an independent State, yet incapable of existing independently. It is dependent upon Italy at sea, and upon Yugoslavia for the import of foodstuffs. Hence the Albanians are always afraid that the influence of one or the other of these Powers should wax too great, and by this fear their foreign policy is determined.

Unfortunately Yugoslavia is sensibly affected by this Albanian unrest. She has to maintain a strong body of troops on the frontier, although she harbours no plans of aggression against Albania. On account of Italy, if for no other reason, Yugoslavia may not cherish any such plans. But for Albania the moment is surely ripening when that country will have to lean economically above all things on Yugoslavia, and the Balkan idea will appear to the Albanians also as the one sound ideal. For these reasons we may safely accept the statement of Dr. Nintchitch to the effect that Yugoslavia is disinterested in Albanian current events, as perfectly sincere, although it is clear that Yugoslav sympathies must be with Ahmed Bey, a kinsman and partisan of Essad Pasha, who frankly and sincerely embraced the cause of the Entente during the War and rendered possible the Serbian retreat through Albania.

The Elections.

"Who will win?" That is the great question. The Government, or the Opposition? The National Bloc, so-called, as represented by the two Government parties, or their opponents? Each side is strenuous in its efforts to persuade the public of its chances of victory, in order to predispose the electorate in its favour. How far these efforts will prove successful is, of course, another question; but for the moment the situation may be summed up as follows:

In Slovenia, Croatia, North Serbia (Sumadiya), and the Voivodina there will probably not be any material changes. The chief parties will maintain their strength, and as regards the regions specified the new Skupshtina will present much the same face (or faces) as the old. But the decision may very easily come to lie with South Serbia and her forty-two deputies. The side that wins South Serbia is likely to find itself master of the situation. Until recently there was a general impression that election results in South Serbia were a matter of police pressure. But recent experience has proved this assumption wrong, and has shown South Serbia to possess an opinion of her own together with a will to voice it. The Opposition parties have united; the former Minister for the Interior, or Minister of Police, as they say in South Serbia, has personally organised the Opposition campaign, and his labours, which have already extended over a month, cannot fail to bring forth fruit. If the Opposition succeeds in winning only one-half of the mandates in South Serbia, its victory will be certain—and that is what is most likely to happen, if one judges by the present situation.

The University of Zagreb.

The action of M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch, as Minister of Education, in pensioning off four professors of the University of Zagreb, together with the incidents that followed, evoked a vigorous protest from the entire academic youth of Yugoslavia. The warm interest taken by the public in this protest must, on the whole, be put down to the fact that the public generally takes the side of youth. All the same, the affair has thereby materially weakened the position of the Government and provided fresh grounds for discord between Radicals and Democrats. The recent incidents at the three Universities have greatly shaken the united front of the National Bloc rather badly, and in Slovenia, Croatia, and Dalmatia it has practically come to grief.

The Campaign.

Almost all parties are meeting with incredible trouble in compiling their lists of candidates. In some constituencies no fewer than five candidates of the same party are competing for one mandate. Obviously, such cases are hailed with joy by the opposite side; but there is scarcely a party that has not to contend, more or less, with this evil.

The electoral campaign proper has hardly yet begun, in spite of several incidents which have led to bloodshed; but after the New Year it will start with all the vehemence meet for a young nation of fighters. Whatever the final upshot, one thing is certain. It will have been useful, because it will contribute to the democratisation of Yugoslavia, and, notwithstanding all excesses, to the consolidation of the State.

The *Pioneer* learns that a small force of Persian troops has been sent from Bujnurd to Simalqan in Khorassan to cope with the local Turkoman unrest.

The King and Queen of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes arrived in Paris last week to visit the King's uncle, Prince Arsène, who is ill.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, who is flying to India, arrived at Bushire last Saturday. He left for Bandar Abbas the following day.

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A PRE-WAR REVOLUTION IN ALBANIA.

By A. WALTER.

We have become rather *exigeant*. If the casualties do not run into thousands, then an international or inter-national difference of opinion is hardly worth chronicling.

Yet the old-fashioned "scrap," so well and so often exemplified in the Balkan cockpit, was not without a certain sentimental interest. The personal element counted for so much. The combatants were often personally known to one another, a fact that did not always tend to lessen the bitterness of strife.

Albania blossomed into autonomous life late in 1913, under the ill-starred auspices of Ismail Kemal Bey, and vanished temporarily from the international stage late in 1914, under the even more calamitous leadership of His Serene Highness Prince William of Wied, known to the irreverent as "Weedy Willie."

Ismail Kemal opted for pretty Valona as the seat of Government, but the backstairs influence of the notorious Essad Pasha subsequently saw to it that King William installed his regal palace at pestilential Durazzo. The more important Scutari bided its time, basking in the beneficent rays of British military administration.

In the spring of 1914 Durazzo, viewed from the sea or, for the matter of that, from the land as well, presented an extremely inhospitable appearance; and first impressions were more than confirmed by closer acquaintance. The Palace, indeed, boasted of an electric light plant and other modern conveniences, which functioned intermittently; but the accommodation available for the diplomatic and consular representatives of the various nations, not to speak of that unwieldy body the International Commission of Control, consisted in the main of typical lath-and-plaster Turkish houses, let at outrageous rents by the enterprising Essad, and of the "Hotel National," an outsize specimen of the foregoing, where for the nominal sum of 125 Austrian kronen (£5) per diem the harassed Attaché or Secretary could obtain two meals of sorts and a room conveniently situated above the poultry run.

The principal actors were, of course, the Italians and Austrians, both of whom felt that juxtaposition gave them an undoubted right to "protect" the new-fledged kingdom. The others—Russians, French, Germans, Greeks, and British—held more or less of a watching brief, while the police arrangements were, perhaps wisely, left to the Dutch. Thereby hangs a tale to be told anon.

Prince William of Wied, first and last King of Albania, was a fine figure of a man, some six feet three in height, and moustachioed *à la* Kaiser. But he lacked an essential part of the composition of a man, vulgarly known as "guts." He was a mere pawn in the hands of that prince of adventurers, Essad, and it was not long before the latter became king in all but name.

Ismail Kemal's star had set, and Prenk Bib Doda, the Northern chieftain, was well looked after by Colonel P. at Scutari; the way was, therefore, open for Essad, and he was not slow in starting to make trouble. A master of intrigue, he had given a foretaste of his quality by the "sale" of Scutari to Nicholas of Montenegro during the first Balkan war, and he now proceeded to raise the Central Albanian tribes against William of Wied.

The unfortunate princeling was ill-equipped by nature to deal with a man of Essad's stamp, and the position was further complicated by the plots and counter-plots engineered by the Italians, Austrians, Greeks, and Serbians. Austria officially backed the Prince, and Italy naturally lost no opportunity of checkmating her. The Greeks and Serbians both coveted part, if not all, of the unfortunate little kingdom, and it called for considerable tact on the part of the British Delegate to the International Commission (the only member of that body inspired by a sincere desire for the prosperity of the latest arrival on the map of Europe) to keep the peace.

Essad's machinations came to a head in May, 1914, when Durazzo was invested on the land side by rebels from Tirana, a town in which he held almost feudal sway, and the surrounding district. Trouble also started in North and South Albania, though neither Scutari, held by international detachments, nor Valona were ever in any real danger.

Had William of Wied, at this early stage, shown any signs of possessing the qualities which appeal to the Albanian, foremost among which is personal courage, all would probably have been well. But, despite the advice of those who knew the country and the people, he persisted in shutting himself up in his palace at Durazzo, where he passed his days in the anguish of physical cowardice and mental indecision. A most imposing figure of a man in the theatrical Albanian uniform—silver grey with aigrette-topped kalpak—he was at heart an arrant coward.

Fortunately for the chances of the defenders of the capital, there were in the town, masquerading as commercial travellers, journalists, and so forth, many German and Austrian reserve officers, as well as a considerable leavening of adventurers from all parts of the world. These, then, formed the nucleus of the loyalist force, together with the native gendarmerie, then in the course of being trained by a Dutch Military Mission. By some fortunate dispensation of Providence, a battery of Austrian mountain-guns had also found its way into the town, whereas the rebels were armed with rifles only.

Fighting took place daily, and the town was continuously under rifle-fire. The headquarters of the International Commission of Control, situated on the outskirts of Durazzo, was particularly exposed, being only a few hundred yards from the firing line. In fact, it was not long before it was voted unhealthy by the Delegates, only one of whom (needless to say, the British, Sir Harry —then Mr.—Lamb) held the fort until the bitter end.

However, in spite of the millions of rounds which must have been fired from start to finish, casualties were surprisingly small, and consisted mostly of live-stock, which strayed between the rival trenches. The mountain-battery did a certain amount of execution among the assailants; the losses of the defence were slight; by a cruel stroke of irony, the only European to lose his life was Colonel Thomson, of the Dutch Military Mission, an exceptionally capable officer, who had seen years of adventurous Colonial service, only to fall to a stray bullet in what might almost have been termed comic-opera warfare.

On one occasion the rebels succeeded in capturing one of the mountain guns, but any uneasiness which this might have caused among the defenders was speedily set at rest by a ludicrous mishap, as a result of which the gentleman training the piece received the recoil amidships, and died from his injuries. The gun was then voted a common danger, and promptly buried!

Amusement was also created one day by William of Wied, whose cowardice so far got the better of him that, on hearing a subsequently unconfirmed rumour that the rebels had actually entered the

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town, he bolted on board the Misurata, an Italian armed yacht then lying in the harbour, from which it took the united persuasion of the various Miniters, delegates, and Consuls to dislodge him.

Once, and once only, did this princeling summon up enough courage to visit another part of his realm; he paid a short visit to Valona, communications by sea being, of course, still open, and hurried back to Durazzo the same day. His visit there was marked by a sharp dispute between the Dutch officer in charge of the gendarmerie at Valona and a mysterious American, who entitled himself "Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Albanian Army," both of whom claimed the honour of receiving the Prince. The result was that the furious Dutchman was ignominiously kicked into the sea; international complications were avoided by the Prince's action in depriving the American of his command! The latter was afterwards compensated by being appointed to command the Albanian "Navy," which consisted of a small tramp steamer, chartered from an Austrian firm, and armed with one of the ubiquitous mountain guns. Incredible as it may seem, the honour was accepted in all seriousness by the gratified recipient.

Essad had remained all this time in Durazzo, directing the rebel operations from the King's palace! His bank account, already swollen by cute and successful land speculations at Durazzo, he having foreseen the choice of that town as capital and therefore bought up most of the land and houses available, was receiving gratifying additions from the various countries which he, with considerable skill, was playing off against each other. Some idea of Essad's commercial acumen may be gathered from the fact that, in the summer of 1914, an ordinary rental for a miserable five-room lath-and-plaster house was three or four hundred pounds per annum.

All good times come to an end, however, and at last Essad's nefarious activities became so blatant that he had to be expelled. This, of course, simply meant that, instead of aiding and abetting the rebels in a roundabout way from loyal headquarters at Durazzo, he was now able to side with them openly.

So the summer months dragged along, the military situation being one of stalemate, and the Albanian coffers becoming more and more depleted. Food was not actually short, but it was of very poor quality, and the swampy ground round the town was responsible for a good deal of sickness. So, despite some slight alleviation caused by the arrival of H.M.S. Defence and a destroyer and the German Breslau, the lot of the defenders was not an enviable one, and the news of the outbreak of the Great War was hailed with feelings of unfeigned relief. It was interesting to note how two distinct groups were immediately formed among the disgruntled diplomats, Austria and Germany giving a wide berth to Britain, France, and Russia, while Italy and the lesser States hovered in the offing, with a tendency to gravitate towards the Triple Entente. *Cela y est*, remarked the French delegate when the news came through, to which his British colleague rather neatly replied, *Et nous y sommes!*

As may be imagined, Governments had more important fish to fry, and little time to waste on the affairs of a tiny State which, from being the cynosure of European eyes, suddenly reverted to a thing of no account. Italy, it is true, used every effort to maintain the International Commission *in statu quo*, despite the outbreak of hostilities, seeing in this a chance of checkmating Austrian concupiscence at little or no cost to herself; some of the means she adopted to attain this end were not too creditable, but that is another story. In any case, it was not to be, and the little band which had withstood the heat of summer and the worrying, though not dangerous, rebel onslaughts, began to scatter to their respective destinations by more or less devious routes.

By this time, the financial affairs of the mushroom State were in chaos; at the end of the July matters had reached such a pass that the Finance Minister (an ex-printers' devil from Constantinople) was able to carry on temporarily only by a personal loan from the Austrian Minister. The aged Turkban Pasha had discovered that the post of Turkish Ambassador at the Court of St. James was a sinecure compared to the hopeless task of keeping his unruly and inexperienced henchmen in order. The Prince's German Majordomo and his British A.D.C. left for their respective regiments. The Defence and Breslau, "chummy ships" overnight, had, one fine morning just prior to the momentous news, left Durazzo on their several occasions, as had the Austrian and most of the Italian units.

For weeks past the rebels had only been held off by the menace of the warships' guns; yet, strange to say, now that they had an opportunity of walking into the town, they did not take it. Did they realise that a greater crisis was impending, in which their puny efforts could have no part?

The fertile brain of William of Wied had evolved the brilliant idea of instituting, as some slight recompense for those who had worn out their tempers and their digestions in his service, two decorations, the "Order of the Black Eagle of Albania" and the "Albanian Medal for Courage." It is said that some 10,000 of each were struck, and they were certainly issued broadcast, the British Delegate and his Secretary being practically the only two people who succeeded in evading these dubious honours. The Grand Cordon of the Black Eagle was a most imposing affair, and was the cause of much secret gratification among the already liberally decorated diplomats of some minor Balkan States.

It was not until August 18 that the British Delegate and his Secretary, the only two of that nationality left in the now derelict Durazzo, heard in a roundabout way of their recall or, as it seemed to them, release, and they lost no time in journeying to Brindisi, where the newly instituted British Relief Fund enabled them to continue their journey

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to Rome, for they were temporarily penniless, Albanian banking facilities having naturally gone the way of all others in those chaotic days.

And thus ended the brief reign of the German puppet, Prince William of Wied, as inglorious a monarch as can well be imagined. He returned to Germany, where he vanished from the European stage. Few will sympathise with him, for his troubles were principally of his own making.

Many, however, will sympathise with the struggling little State; emerging from the age-long Turkish thrall, and at last winning her independence, she fell into the usual Balkan error—the united front which had served to secure the removal of the oppressor degenerated, once that feat was accomplished, into tribal jealousy culminating in civil war. A tragedy in little, engulfed in the world-wide cataclysm, yet it may not be easily forgotten by those whom Fate destined to play a part therein.

It was only a "side-show."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 1, 1925 (New Style).
December 19, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada II., 5, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebeth 5, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Cable will leave shortly for India.

Bishop Gore will be in Egypt or Palestine until the end of April.

Abdul Rahman Fikry, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, has left London for Paris.

Sir Victor Warrender will leave England early in the New Year for Mesopotamia.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco left London last Friday for Paris.

Abdul Samad Khan, Secretary at the Afghan Legation, left London on December 29 for Berlin.

Mohammed Fahmy Hussein Bey, Counsellor of Legation, left London on December 23 for Cairo on leave.

The Bulgarian Minister, who is accredited also to the Netherlands, left London this week for The Hague to present his letters of credence to Queen Wilhelmina.

Captain George Panas, Naval Attaché at the Greek Legation in London, entertained at dinner on Christmas Day some of the Greek Naval officers now on special duty in England.

The Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Major Church, and Mr. Linfield, who have been on a visit to East Africa on behalf of the Colonial Office, have returned to England.

Lady Sharp is sailing to-morrow (Friday) for California, and will be away for several months. Her daughter, Mrs. E. E. Palmer, wife of the American Consul-General at Bucharest, has been visiting her.

The engagement is announced of Lieut. Edgar W. E. Lane, R.N., elder son of Lieut.-Col. W. B. Lane, C.I.E., C.B.E., I.M.S., and Mrs. Lane, to Mary Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Singer, and niece of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Singer, of 5, North Grove, Highgate Village.

During the two months' absence in Switzerland of the Egyptian Minister in London, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey is acting as Chargé d'Affaires. Sidarouss Bey, who was until recently Chargé d'Affaires in Brussels and First Secretary at the Legation in Paris, arrived in London last week.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. David Grierson Waller, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature in Madras, in succession to Sir Francis Du Pre Oldfield, I.C.S., who has retired from the service, with effect from November 8.

The King has approved of the following rewards in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Iraq :—

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The Secretary of State for India has offered a seat on the Council of India to Mr. Robert Erskine Holland, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.V.O., Indian Civil Service, Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, in succession to Sir Charles Stuart Bayley, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.S.O., who has resigned from the Council on completing two years of his second term of office. It is intended that Mr. Holland shall join the Council in March next.

The King has given authority to Major Claud Scudamore Jarvis, 3rd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, Governor of the Sinai Province, Egyptian Frontier Districts Administration, to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile conferred on him by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services; and to Captain Eugene Daniel McCarthy, Indian Army, to wear the insignia of the First Class of the Saidi Order, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Muscat, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him to that State.

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THE BALKANS IN 1924.

If the past year has been no *annus mirabilis* for the Balkans, it has at least seen the Peninsula occupying its fair share of the limelight devoted to the European continent. The establishment of two republics in Greece and Turkey, a settlement of the Adriatic question between Italy and Yugoslavia, overtures for a *rapprochement* between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria carried far enough to allow the Bulgarian Prime Minister to visit Belgrade at the close of the year, a marked tendency of the different exchanges to avoid the violent fluctuations of previous years suggesting economic recovery; these are among the more notable features of the last twelve months. For each country, moreover, the year has provided abundant opportunity for national heart-searching, with the result, we are inclined to believe in every case, of definite progress being made towards better things. The Italo-Yugoslav Agreement may be regarded as an essential preliminary to a Balkan confederation, for it represented the abandonment by Italy, in the face of the logic of hard facts, of her dream of shaping from outside the destinies of the Peninsula. Events in Albania during the last few days have given Italian public opinion an occasion to show how reluctantly it will accommodate itself to the self-denying ordinance; but there can be no doubt of the loyalty of the Italian Government to its pledges, or indeed of the endorsement of the wisdom of the undertaking by the thinking section of the Italian people.

YUGOSLAVIA.

With the danger of complications with Italy removed, and in its place substituted a treaty of friendship protecting the new kingdom on the west, the main preoccupation of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes during the year has been the question of centralisation *versus* federalism. Although there has been no very definite weakening of the rigid system introduced by M. Pashitch, the fact that he abandoned office to allow his political opponents a chance of grappling with the problem indicates that he, too, is beginning to realise that some compromise in the direction of local autonomy may be advisable Owing to the impossible attitude of M. Raditch, the Ministry of M. Davidovitch was unable to carry through its task of reconciling the desire for decentralisation with the Serbian fears of Communist Republicanism, which the wild speeches of the unpractical Croatian leader have roused. Accordingly, M. Pashitch is back again in office, and an attempt will be made in February to solve the Parliamentary deadlock by fresh elections. The quarrels of the Macedonians among themselves have tended to make another problem less acute for Yugoslavia. Finding the cause without hope of support in any other direction, a section of the Macedonian Central Organisation decided to take advantage of Soviet promises of active help. A split followed, leading to the assassination of Todor Alexandroff, the soul and brains of the Macedonian movement; within the last few days M. Chaüleff, the member of the Triumvirate who favoured Communism, has been murdered, and now Protoguéroff remains alone at the head of the Organisation. He has had abundant opportunity of learning that so long as revolutionary methods are practised by the Macedonians they will be left severely alone to settle their accounts with the Serbians, and they can gauge their prospects of success from the experience of Montenegro. On the other hand, the adoption of more constitutional forms of protest, under whatever provocation and however difficult, must materially assist a settlement of the whole Yugoslav question on constitutional lines, to the ultimate benefit of the Macedonians themselves.

GREECE.

For no country has the year been more epoch-making than for Greece. The deposition of King George, who had left the country the previous December, and the proclamation of a Republic took place on March 25; on April 13 the Republic was confirmed by a plebiscite. At the end of 1923 Greece seemed to have decided that her one hope of salvation lay in M. Venizelos. The elections held on December 16 had been not only a success for the Venizelist Party, but also a personal triumph for its leader; he yielded to the renewed solicitations to return to Greece, and reached Athens on January 4. A week later he became Prime Minister; but he was quite unequal to the task of healing the breach which he himself had originally created, and on February 4 he resigned the Premiership, to leave Greece on March 10. His negative policy had accomplished nothing; he had given his support to the theory of a Greek republic, but hesitated to put it into practice. All the country's energy rested with the Republicans under military instigation, and M. Papanastasiou at their head carried through the necessary measures in the Chamber. If there was little real enthusiasm in Greece for the republic, there was a genuine longing for internal peace, for a truce to the politicians' quarrels. So long as M. Venizelos remained in the country there could be no burying of the hatchet on the part of Royalists and Venizelists. When the Officers' League resolved that there must be a republic, the Greek people accepted it not from conviction, but because they were cowed and politically tired. The experience of the last nine months suggests that the Greeks accept the *status quo* with fatalistic indifference, well content to let the politicians wrangle among themselves, provided only that the national instinct for trade can be indulged without undue distraction. For the fact remains that, whereas there have been six Prime Ministers of Greece during 1924, the country as a whole is on the crest of a wave of economic prosperity.

ROUMANIA.

Tendencies rather than achievements have characterised the past year in Roumania. The Liberal Government, under M. Ian Bratianu, assisted by his brother, M. Vintila Bratianu, as Minister of Finance, has remained in power, nominally carrying its financial and economic programme through further stages according to plan, but in reality concerned to make its measures a little more palatable both to home and to foreign interests. It is unfortunate that a Government which knows its own mind and has a well-defined policy should not be able to command wider recognition; in Roumania it is accused of purely selfish ends, some striking instances of graft are cited in support of the contention, and it will never be forgiven the methods adopted at the last elections. Abroad, after the first outcry against legislation that seemed to aim at expelling foreign capital rather than subjecting it to justifiable restrictions, opinion

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tends to become crystallised that the trouble is not so much what the Bratianu Government does as "the nasty way it does it." Internal discontent undoubtedly gives a handle to foreign dissatisfaction; for there is a temptation to take the worst view of any subject when from all sides emphasis is being laid on the sins of the Government responsible. Thus the attitude of the Roumanian Government on matters affecting foreign capital is apt to be judged by the grievances of Magyars and its own Transylvanian compatriots, or by alleged sharp practice in dealing with Bulgarian property in the Dobruja. If the Bratianu Ministry had learnt early in the day the value of making friends, instead of merely promoting the interests of those it already had, a valuable page of constructive work might have been added to Roumanian history. In any case, it has to its credit the balancing of the annual Budgets.

BULGARIA.

Life for the Bulgarian Government during the last twelve months has been a succession of alarms and excursions, and it was not until towards the end of the year that it could really begin to share the optimism that it has conscientiously preached to the people. Many of its daily troubles passed unnoticed at home and call for no reference abroad: but with the standing menace of Communism and the uncertainty as to what the morrow might bring forth from over the Yugoslav frontier ever at hand, the sleep of the Sofia Cabinet must have been more troubled than that of any other Balkan Government. It is not that Bulgaria finds being on her best behaviour so irksome; the difficulty is to persuade her neighbours that she is on her best behaviour. Actually the year has passed without serious incident. At the beginning of March the sudden arrest of several hundred Macedonians was an indication that the Government had resolved to expose itself no longer to the charge of playing with fire in that particular direction. The compulsory dissolution of the Communist and Labour parties followed in April. Communism for the time being appeared to be scotched, but the troubles of the Government were not necessarily at an end. Considerable dissatisfaction prevailed among the peasants, owing largely, it is to be feared, to the failure of those charged with the duty of stamping out Communism to differentiate between Communists and others whose main offence was that they belonged to the Agrarian Party. In spite of political troubles, however, the country, thanks to the industry of its inhabitants, is forging ahead steadily in the economic sphere. Sooner or later it will receive the outlet on the Ægean Sea that it needs; but it will do well not to attempt to force the pace. The more confident a people is of itself the more steadfastly it can afford to bide its time when, as it claims, it is asking only for justice and entertains no imperialist ambitions.

TURKEY.

Turkey dates the first year of the Republic from 1924. The Grand National Assembly abolished the Khalifate in March, and with this step—the last in a series carefully designed to accomplish the end in view—the last obstacle in the way of the enthronement of the Turkish nation was removed. The ills from which Turkey had suffered were attributed in the first place to the despotism of Yildiz Kiosk. If a constitutional monarchy had been considered possible, it would most probably have been preferred as an alternative; but a constitutional monarch, it was decided, was not to be obtained, and so recourse was had to a Republic, with Mustapha Kemal Pasha as first President. The conference between Turkey and Great Britain to decide the question of the northern frontier of Iraq, as provided for by the Treaty of Lausanne, was opened in Constantinople on May 19. No agreement was reached, and on June 5 negotiations were broken off. An attempt was made by the Turks to peg out a better claim to the Mosul vilayet by a military occupation of districts within the British sphere, and the League of Nations had to intervene before any attention was paid by the Turkish Government to the British protests. To-day, however, the incident stands adjusted by a decision of the League, whose Commission appointed to delimit the frontier is on its way to Iraq. A better spirit prevails in Turkey at the close of the year than was apparent at the opening. Angora is less of the heavy schoolmaster towards Constantinople, for the danger of stifling the most important revenue-producing centre is at last appreciated. A Commission appointed to investigate conditions in the city and port has handed in its report. Constantinople stands to benefit from the changed attitude of Angora, which is beginning to find that the art of good government has to be learned carefully, perhaps laboriously, and is less enamoured of the hasty legislation that has been a burden to the country and has made the inexperienced National Assembly a byword among the nations. The new Turkey, however, is in deadly earnest and deserves respect for this fact; if her capacity proves equal to her courage she will yet go far, and it is to be hoped that she will find the guiding hand that she needs in Great Britain.

ALBANIA.

This hasty review of the past year in the Near East can close with a brief reference to Albania, where the problem of government is still waiting to be solved. Instability remains the order of the day. A reconstruction of the Ministry took place in March, when Ahmed Bey Zogu resigned the office of Prime Minister; but with his father-in-law at the head of the new Cabinet he remained supreme in the Government of the country. In June an insurrectionary movement broke out against the Administration, and, proving successful, brought Mgr. Fan Noli to power. The late Ministers fled the country, Ahmed Bey Zogu, after a longer resistance than the others, seeking ultimately a refuge in Serbia. Before the end of the year he is found heading a revolt against Mgr. Fan Noli, and this time becomes Dictator. He certainly stands out amongst his countrymen, but he lacks experience and proved unequal to his task before. The fact that Ahmed Bey Zogu should have organised the insurrection from Serbian territory has caused misgivings in Italy; but it was probably only a coincidence that the invasion of Albanian territory by Zogu's supporters should have occurred at the time when the Italian and Yugoslav Governments were renewing on a more formal basis the agreement reached in June not to interfere in the internal affairs of Albania. Continued unrest in the country is a reproach to Europe; but there is no difficulty in localising its effects if Albania's neighbours refrain from fishing in troubled waters.

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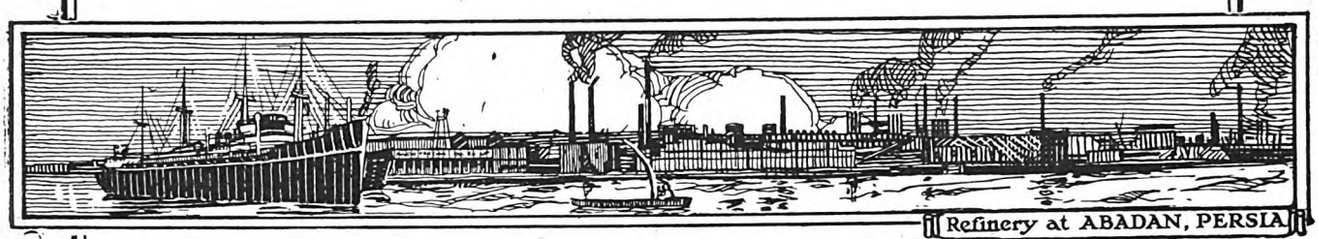

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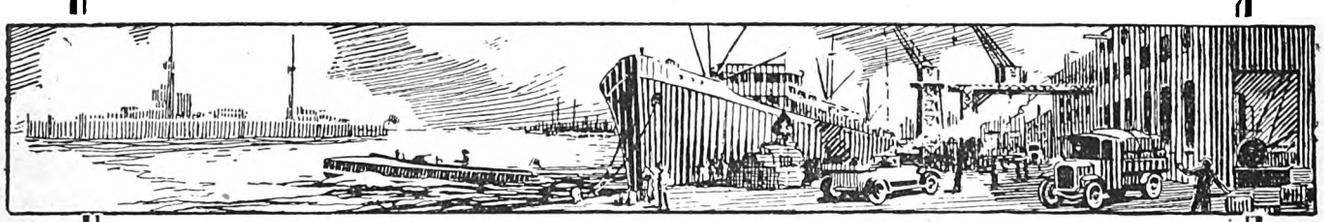

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Near East Bookshelf.

A WINDOW INTO THE FORBIDDEN LAND.

"TIBET PAST AND PRESENT." By Sir Charles Bell. (London: Humphrey Milford. 24s. net.)

The title of this book is perhaps hardly fair to the author. The space devoted to the semi-legendary and nearly always obscure past history of Tibet is small, and only serves to give some idea of how the country has developed into what it is now. The modern history of Tibet begins with Mr. Macaulay's mission to Lhassa in 1885, and it is the history of Tibet from that date till now with which Sir Charles Bell is mainly concerned. In 1900 his delicate health made his transfer from the Bengal Plains to the Darjeeling district necessary, and it is to this accident that his long connection with Tibet is primarily due. If ever there was a case of Providence intervening in the details of mundane affairs, we would say that this was it. For Sir Charles, by reason of his sincere religious nature, his gift for languages, his ready and sympathetic understanding of "the other man's" view, his patience, his courtesy, and his diplomatic skill, has been an ideal representative of the British Government with this isolated, proud, and suspicious but loyal and (to an extent not yet generally realised) civilised people.

He found them actively hostile, and left them our trusting and admiring friends. His book is necessarily an account of matters *quorum pars magna fuit*, a fact which gives the work its unity and its chief value. No Englishman has ever known the Tibetan anything like so familiarly and intimately as our author, and he has made good use of his chances, while his political views are clearly sound, and their execution can only be honourable to both parties.

We were relieved in the course of our reading to learn that Sir Charles does not intend this book to be his only contribution to the interpretation of Tibet to Europe. He has still to tell us of the circumstances of daily life in the various ranks of Tibetans and in various parts of the country. He will no doubt enlighten us on the consequences of the existence of tens of thousands of celibate monks and priests in this thinly populated land, a feature of Tibet which seems to us to be of immense interest. We wish, too, that he would tell us more of the curiously close connection between Lhassa and Urga, in Mongolia, hundreds of miles apart, and those miles being over almost the most difficult routes in the world. It does not seem to us to be enough to say that the Tibetans and Mongolians are racially closely allied, and that they have the same religion. Did the Tibetans come from Mongolia? How did the Mongolians come to adopt the curious Tibetan form of Buddhism? And how has this close connection been able to survive for all these centuries in spite of extraordinarily formidable natural barriers?

A curious light is thrown on the humanity shared by the Tibetans with us in a pathetic little love poem by the sixth Dalai Lama, the somewhat unorthodox God-King who ruled Tibet between 1680 and 1706 A.D. He was necessarily a strict celibate, but he had his human side, and felt the disadvantages of his exalted position. As translated by Sir Charles Bell, the poem reads curiously like one by a seventeenth-century English contemporary. Here are some stanzas of it:—

Last year the crop was young and green,
'Tis now but withered strands;
And youth, grown old, is dried and bent,
Like bows from southern lands.

Dear love, to whom my heart goes out,
If we could but be wed,
Then had I gained the choicest gem
From Ocean's deepest bed.

I chanced to pass my sweetheart fair
Upon the road one day;
A turquoise found of clearest blue,
Found—to be thrown away.

High on the peach tree out of reach
The ripened fruit is there;
So, too, the maid of noble birth,
Though full of life and fair.

My heart's far off; the nights pass by
In sleeplessness and strife;
E'en day brings not my heart's desire,
For lifeless is my life.

We have to thank the author for a book of great interest and—what is rarer—of permanent value. The numerous excellent photographs by the same hand, some of them colour-photographs, enhance its usefulness and beauty. We look forward with pleasurable anticipation to Sir Charles Bell's next book on Tibet. C. S.-W.

MACEDONIA.

"ETHNOGRAPHIE VON MAKEDONIEN." Geschichtlich-nationaler, sprachlich-statistischer Teil, von Prof. Dr. Gustav Weigand, Mit einem Trachtenbild.. (Leipzig, Fr. Brandstetter, 3 marks.)

This is an extremely interesting book, and every one of its 102 pages is full of meat. While the philological part will appeal only to a few specialists, the general ethnological portion, with its correlation with history, should interest every educated person. The author spent six years in Macedonia with the special object of studying the ethnology of that country, and is thoroughly well qualified for his task; no one who touches the political aspect of the Balkan Peninsula can speak with authority until he has read this work. As a German who served on the Macedonian front, the author's sym-

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pathies incline very naturally towards the Bulgars, although he writes, according to his own claim, "unbekümmert am Lob oder Tadel, niemand zu Lieb, niemand zu Leid." Still, there is little, indeed, over which one will want to cross swords with him, even when he makes a bitter attack upon the present short-sighted policy of Belgrade in Macedonia, which can but make the best friends of the Serbs shake their heads in sorrow.

TRADERS IN EAST AND WEST.

"TRADERS IN EAST AND WEST." By Florence L. Bowman and Esther J. Roper. (London: The Sheldon Press. 2s. net.)

The sub-title, "Some Aspects of Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Illustrated from the Sources," gives an adequate idea of this book, which consists of selections, occasionally rather scrappy, from contemporary documents relating to the East India and Hudson's Bay Companies, the trade in slaves and tobacco, the Royal Exchange, and the Bank of England. The literature is so voluminous that it would be easier to criticise than to justify any selection that might be made: the selection before us is, at any rate, calculated to stimulate the interests of students, and the short bibliography appended will enable them to get in closer touch with the real story. The explanatory matter contributed by the compilers is commendably brief, but is marred by some inaccuracies. The date of the grant of Madras, for instance, is given as 1643 instead of 1639, while the statement that the experiment of trading with the Spice Islands began after 1613 overlooks the fact that this trade was one of the primary objects of the company, and that Lancaster and Middleton had been concerned in it several years previously.

THE SALONIKA REUNION.

It has been arranged, on behalf of the Salonika Force, that the parade and service in commemoration of the signing of the Armistice with the Bulgars will in future be held on September 30, when a Sunday, or on the first Sunday following.

Next year, after placing the wreath on the Cenotaph on October 4, a reunion dinner will be held in one of the Territorial drill halls in Westminster. A central committee has been formed, and local committees will be entrusted with the details of organisation. Major F. W. Sharpe is the chairman and Mr. A. H. Thurston, 23, Stavordale Road, N.5, is the honorary secretary.

It is proposed, if sufficient numbers are forthcoming, to organise a party to visit Salonika cemeteries and to be present at the unveiling of a memorial on Colonial Hill. The party would leave London early in April.

Snow fell in Baghdad on Boxing Day. This was the first fall for fourteen years, and it was followed by eight degrees of frost.

Mr. Zankoff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, arrived at Bucharest on December 29 from Belgrade, and has had an audience of the King, and interviews with M. Bratianu and Dr. Duca.

The Literary and Dramatic Society of Birmingham University will perform in February Pushkin's "Boris Godunov." This will be the first production of the play on the English stage. The translator of "Boris" is Professor Alfred Hayes, Principal of the Midland Institute, who has also translated "Tsar Feodor." Mr. Stuart Vinden, of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, is the producer. The stage settings and costumes are being designed by Mr. A. R. Shanks, and Dr. Granville Bantock, Professor of Music at the University, is writing a new orchestral work as a prelude. This will be treated as an integral part of the performance, and, together with selections from Moussorgzky's "Boris" music, will be conducted by Mr. Adrian Boult, Director of Music to the City of Birmingham Orchestra.

OBITUARY.

The Rev. D. G. M. Leith, of the Wesleyan Mission, Madras, was drowned in the sea off Ennore, a suburb of Madras, last Saturday night.

The death occurred last week at Florence of Mr. A. H. Savage Landor, who was a grandson of Walter Savage Landor, and had travelled all over the world. Among the places he visited were both sources of the Brahmaputra, Mount Lumpa in Nepal, Morocco, Salonika, Persia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, and so on. Besides being a traveller, he was painter, sculptor, and inventor.

Colonel Francis Pitt Stewart Taylor, C.M.G., late of the Royal Army Service Corps, died at East Cowes on December 22 at the age of 55. He was Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General to the Fourth Division during 1914, and in 1915 and 1916 was Brigadier-General commanding the British Adriatic Mission, being awarded the C.M.G., the Serbian Order of the White Eagle, the Order of the Crown of Italy, and a brevet colonelcy.

The death occurred on December 20 of Major Robert C. B. Lethbridge, late of 4th Bedford and Herts Regiment, at the age of 49. He was in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and took part in the Battle of Khartoum, afterwards serving in the South African War. During the Great War he was on the Western front from December, 1914, to November, 1915, afterwards serving in Greek Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, European Turkey, and the Ægean Islands.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Ionian Bank.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Ionian Bank for the year ended August 30. There is an increase in profits from £49,644 to £63,076, and with £12,467 brought in, the total is £75,543, from which an interim dividend has been paid, making the available surplus £60,976. It is proposed to add £20,000 to the reserve, as against £15,000, to transfer to the Greek branches pension fund 1,000,000 drachmæ, £4,056, to pay a final dividend of 3s. per share free of income-tax, making 6 per cent. for the year, and to pay a bonus of 2s. per share tax free as against 1s. for the previous year, leaving £12,640 to be carried forward. There has been a very general improvement in conditions in the Near East in the past year, and the directors point out that the business of the bank has continued to show satisfactory expansion.

Further Near Eastern Loans.

Following the success of the Greek Refugees Loan, it was perhaps inevitable that there should be talk of further Near Eastern issues, and during the past week it has been rumoured that a Turkish Loan was on the tapis. There is, however, no prospect of anything of the kind at the moment, and as a matter of fact, Turkish financial methods have been such that it is probable that a loan would meet with anything but a good reception. But the fact that there is no immediate prospect of a loan does not alter the fact that one is inevitable at no distant date. Capital is essential for the new Turkey if the country is to recover from the effects of the War, for only by that means can the many necessary works of development be carried out. Before a loan here can have any real chance of success Turkey will have to put her finances in order, for if investors are to respond to a further invitation to lend their money they must have confidence that it will be secure against all contingencies, and that they certainly have not at the present time. As a matter of fact, I do not expect that Turkey will be the next Near Eastern country to raise a loan on the London market. If rumour had associated the word loan with Roumania it might have been more accurate.

American Competition in India.

It is almost impossible to take up an American trade paper without receiving some indication of the growing importance which Americans are evidently inclined to give to the Indian market. I have just been reading a short article in an official publication entitled, "Winning the Indian Market," the title of which shows very plainly the attitude. The fact is that Americans realise only too well that as a result of the war the markets where sound trade is to be obtained are few and far between, and that the most important of them is India. They also know, as the article in question shows, that they will meet with very stubborn competition in endeavouring to enlarge their foothold in that market; but they are evidently prepared to do everything possible to secure a greater opening in India for their goods, and an instance of their thoroughgoing preparations is the issuing by the Department of Commerce of a circular on the Indian market which, to quote a description of it, "goes into all phases of winning trade in India, explaining in detail the obstacles to be overcome, and pointing out pitfalls to be avoided by firms entering the market for the first time." It only goes to show that British firms must leave nothing to chance in regard to the Indian market, but must be prepared in the next few years to meet much greater competition.

New Sudan Project.

How development rapidly follows on secured conditions is well exemplified in the case of the Sudan, in connection with which, since the future of that region has been placed beyond doubt, several interesting schemes have come on the tapis. News of one of the most important of these projects was given this week in the *Daily Mail* by Mr. G. Ward-Price. He states that an agreement is to be signed this week between the Sudan Government and a British group, which comprises the Prudential Assurance Co., the English Electric Co., Dorman, Long and Co., and Callenders Cable and Construction Co., for the construction of a nine-span steel bridge across the White Nile from Khartoum to Omdurman. The length of the bridge, which will be constructed by Dorman, Long and Co., will be 1,150 yards, and its cost will be between £250,000 and £300,000. Further, the group will take over the present steam tramway system and electrify it, supply electric light throughout Khartoum and Omdurman, and lay down water-mains at Omdurman and Khartoum North.

Cotton Growing in Iraq.

It is understood that an issue of capital is to be made very shortly in connection with a company formed to work a concession granted by the Iraq Government over an extensive area suitable for cotton growing. The capital of the company will be about £500,000. This is the first time that investors will have had the chance of participating

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in the development of Iraq under the mandate, and in view of the happy results that have attended cotton growing in the Sudan, it may be taken for granted that the issue will meet with a warm response.

The British Industries Fair.

The abandonment of the London section of the British Industries Fair has been received with anything but favour by a section of the exhibitors. The view taken is that the alternative of exhibiting either at Wembley or at Birmingham by no means meets the situation, though it is difficult to see much justification for this attitude. The ideal solution would have been to have held the London section at the time of the opening of the Wembley Exhibition at Wembley itself, subsequently utilising the space for other purposes. Quite possibly that would have been done but for the dilettante policy of the late Administration in its closing months, when it was left in absolute uncertainty as to whether there was to be a Fair or an Exhibition or both, the fact being presumably that, in view of the shadow of impending events, the Government was unwilling to take a decision one way or another. It is, of course, unfortunate that the continuity of the series of Fairs should be interrupted, more especially as it may give the Leipzig Fair an opportunity to re-establish itself. We can only hope that the spring of 1926 will see the London section itself again, and an overwhelming success, as it should be if the trade outlook continues to improve as it shows every sign of doing.

Egypt's Trade.

The figures for the trade of Egypt for the eleven months ended November 30 are now available, and make a very favourable showing. The value of the imports stands at £E45,683,995, while that of the exports is £E54,860,125. As compared with the same period of 1923, there is an increase of £E4,786,466 as regards imports and of £E6,824,632 as regards exports, cotton, of course, being responsible for the increased value of the exports. Statistics of the full period are not available as regards the countries exporting to Egypt, but the particulars already issued go to show that Great Britain has not shared to any extent in the increased imports, and it is to be hoped that our traders will in future pay more attention to a market which is distinctly promising. After all, we take Egypt's cotton, and have, therefore, provided the increased value of the exports, and it is only reasonable that we should look for compensation on the other side of the account.

Commentator.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

NEW EGYPT AND LEVANT SHIPPING COMPANY.

Launch of New Steamer.

The fine new steamer Antinous, built to the order of the New Egypt and Levant Shipping Co., Ltd., London, by Messrs. Workman Clark and Co., Ltd., successfully carried out a series of trials in Belfast Lough on December 17. During the trials the owners were represented by Messrs. Langdon Rees, Ltd., the managers. The vessel, which is of the shelter deck type, 415 ft., in length, with a gross tonnage of 4,560 and 8,400 tons d.w., has been constructed to the requirements of Lloyd's Register of Shipping for their highest class. The machinery consists of a set of triple-expansion engines taking steam from three large multi-tubular cylindrical boilers, this machinery also being built by Messrs. Workman Clark and Co., Ltd. There are five large holds, and complete shelter 'tween decks arranged for the carriage of grain and general cargoes, and the loading and discharging arrangements are most up-to-date. On the conclusion of the trials, the Antinous returned to the builders' yard to take on board the owners' stores prior to proceeding on her maiden voyage early in the New Year.

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. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 10).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 14).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 2); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Nagpur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 16).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 7).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Vedamore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 3.) M.v. Tramore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza. (Liverpool, January 31.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, January 9); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 10).

Negotiations for a new commercial treaty between Norway and Greece to replace that which lapses on March 1 will shortly begin.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended December 10 amounted to £E13,387, making the total from April 1 £E245,301.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 29 amounted to Rs. 9,05,500, making the total from April 1 Rs. 3,26,39,784.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Firmness All Round.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand at the last prices. Tate's cubes are 37s. 9d., London granulated is 32s. 10½d., while Lyle's granulated is 33s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been steady. White Mauritius spot has sold at 30s. 6d., white Java spot has been done at 30s. 4½d., while Czech granulated has been done at 30s. 10½d. Futures have been firm, December being 17s. to 17s. 4½d., January 17s. 1½d. to 17s. 3d., March 17s. 3d., May 17s. 6d., and August 17s. 9d.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet but steady. Stocks here are now 12,661 bags, as compared with 28,820 a year ago. Futures are firm, March being 122s. 6d., and May 121s.

Rice.—The market has been quiet. Burma cleaned has been done at 18s. spot, while the new crop has been done at 14s. 10½d. for January-February.

Maize.—A very firm tone has been in evidence, and prices have risen sharply. For La Plata afloat 47s. 3d. has been asked, 47s. 9d. for December-January, 48s. 9d. for January-February, and 49s. 9d. for February-March.

Barley.—Business has been brisker. Bombay afloat has been done at 41s. 6d., while Karachi, December, has come to business at 42s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been very firm, Calcutta being 24s. 4½d., while La Plata has been done at 22s. 9d. Rapeseed has also been very firm, Toria being 21s. 9d., while Ferozepore is 21s. There has not been much doing in cottonseed, though the undertone has been firm. Bombay is 11s. 1½d., Egyptian black is 14s., while Sakellaridis is 13s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been very firm, and at 49s. 3d. spot and 48s. 3d. for December shows a considerable advance. Rape oil has been steady, with crude at 51s. 6d. and technical refined at 54s. 6d. Cotton oil has been firm. Refined common edible is 52s. 6d., Egyptian crude is 48s., while deodorised is 54s. 6d.

Currants.—As in the case of other markets, there has not been much doing in dried fruit generally on account of the holiday season. Currants have remained a very firm spot. Stocks are small, and it is expected that with the resumption of general business there will be an advance in prices.

Sultanas.—A good tone has prevailed. Large supplies are not available, and the market position may be summed up as firm, and it will not be surprising if higher prices are shortly seen. Stocks of Australians are being rapidly used up.

Figs.—This commodity has continued to move off very freely, and the demand indeed has been quite of an exceptional character. Layers have been in special request, and stocks are now running low. Naturals have also been a very good spot.

Plums.—The demand for plums has not been so good of late. Some grades are in rather short supply, and if, as appears probable, there is a development of demand in the New Year there will be an advance in prices.

Dates.—This commodity has been in good request, and it is evident that the market is rather tending to harden.

Almonds.—The demand for this commodity has resulted in higher prices, and it will not be surprising if rates go even higher in the near future.

Oranges.—The market up to Christmas was extremely brisk, all classes being in good request. Jaffas have been in good demand, and are somewhat dearer.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ.

Large Date Exports.

The following particulars are taken from the Monthly Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended November 15 :—

The comparatively hot dry conditions which prevailed at the beginning of the month, though they assisted the ripening of the late summer crops, rendered germination of early sown vegetables and winter crops difficult. Irrigation conditions have on the whole improved. The Yusufiyah Canal was opened after silt clearing on November 3, and the Saklawiyah was completely opened on November 2. A south-westerly wind during the first half of the month piled up the tide in the river at Basrah with very good effect on the water level, and irrigation of date gardens was thereby improved. Towards the end of the month, however, this wind again dropped. A slight rise in the Tigris was recorded, relieving greatly the anxiety of pump-owners, and improving conditions in the Amarah district. A similar rise in the Dialah resulted in an improved supply for the canals taking off that river.

Cultivators are generally busy with preparations for winter crops, and the normal areas of early barley have already been sown. Wheat and barley remain steady at high prices, and this may adversely affect the area sown, particularly of wheat. The Hillah district reports a good average crop of late sown rice which is now being harvested. Amarah reports a good average crop, but over a smaller area than usual, due to the poor irrigation conditions that have prevailed. Transplanted rice is reported to be good. Maize harvest was in pro-

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gress during the period under report, and a fair average crop is reported. Grazing still remains poor, and the general condition of stock leaves much to be desired.

The Basrah date harvest was practically completed during October, and the final results confirm the estimates made previously. Hallawis were a full crop of only fair quality, Khadrawis gave only an average yield, but of excellent quality, whilst Sayer are good average, both in yield and quality. Prices have remained fairly steady, with a tendency to harden towards the end of the season.

Cotton pickings continued throughout the period under report. Up to the end of October seed cotton equivalent to 1,560 bales was delivered to the ginnery as compared with an equivalent of 780 bales for the same period last year. Pickings on the whole were poor during the month. As a rule October pickings amount to nearly one-half the total crop, but this year early pickings have been very good, and the late pickings poor, though the average total crop remains about the same. In some cases pickings ceased altogether, and cultivators have turned in their live-stock to graze. This is especially noticeable in the Yusufiyah and Saklawiyah areas. The small number of bolls on plants has led to an enormous increase in the percentage of boll-worm attack, though the boll-worm population is probably under normal. On the experimental farm at Rustam the different varieties of cotton under experiment had given yields varying from 1,291 lb. to 1,663 lb. per acre.

An agricultural office has been established at Mosul and an organisation is being formed to undertake an anti-locust campaign. This pest has been entirely uncontrolled during recent years, and has increased the area of its depredations especially towards the south, in a disquieting manner. The entomologist has visited the district with a view to discovering the hibernation places of the Sunn pest. This pest is reported to be increasing in activity, and considerable alarm is felt amongst cultivators in the north. A careful search was made of all accessible places, but no insects were found. The entomologist is of opinion that the hibernation haunts are in the higher inaccessible mountain regions to the north. It is hoped to undertake further investigations in the spring of the coming year.

A consignment of citrous fruits imported into Basrah was found on examination at the seed testing station to be infected with a *Phyllocistid* leaf minor and a citrous butterfly. They are both highly dangerous pests of citrous fruits so far not noticed in Iraq but common in India. The trees were thoroughly disinfected before being handed to the owners. The importance of adequate examination of such consignments cannot be over-emphasised.

The July to October exports of wheat from Iraq were 953 tons and of barley 21,524 tons, total 22,477 tons as compared with 81,274 tons for the same period last year. The August-October exports of dates from Iraq were 112,783 tons, valued at Rs. 1,45,86,592, as compared with 54,010 tons, valued at Rs. 71,85,749 for the corresponding season last year. The July-October exports of wool from Iraq were 12,699 tons, as compared with 2,436 tons exported during the same season last year.

EXPORT OF CAPITAL FROM ROUMANIA.

The British Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that it has now been decided that no permits to carry foreign money out of the country will in future be granted unless the application for such permit has first been approved by the Office for the Control of Foreign Exchanges. Furthermore, the applicant will be required to indicate the name of the bank where the money was exchanged, in order to show whether the bank in question is authorised to deal in exchange.

The Commercial Secretary further reports that the Ministry of Finance has sent orders to all the Customs Houses to the effect that all travellers into Roumania, whether Roumanians or foreigners, should have a note made on their passports on entering the country of the amount of money carried, in order that, on their departure again abroad, they may not apply for a permit to carry out a larger sum than that with which they entered.

The tobacco crop of Palestine this year is estimated at 1,200 tons of Turkish tobacco and 540 tons of Baladi tobacco.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during September amounted to 35,824 oz., valued at Rs. 19,58,444.

The Turkish Council of Ministers have approved a proposal for the exemption from Customs duties of all commercial lorries imported into Turkey. This decision must be ratified by the National Assembly before it can become operative.

Mr. Andrew Grant, of Pitcorthie House, Colinsburgh, Kilconquhar, Fife, retired merchant, formerly in business in Bombay, and afterwards in Liverpool, Liberal M.P. for Leith Burghs, 1878-1884, a former president of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who died on October 23 last, aged 94 years, left, exclusive of real estate and settled property, unsettled personal estate valued at £607,746. The estate duties on the property at this valuation will amount to over £164,000, in addition to any sums payable by way of legacy or succession duty.

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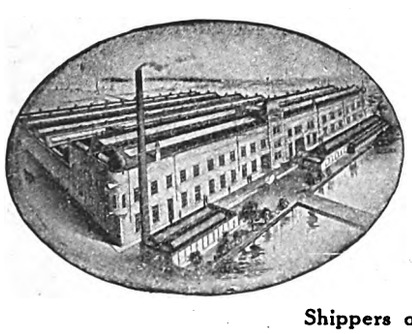
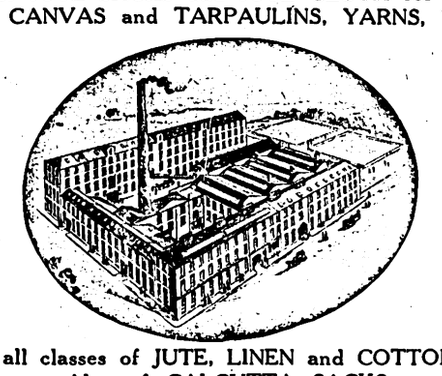
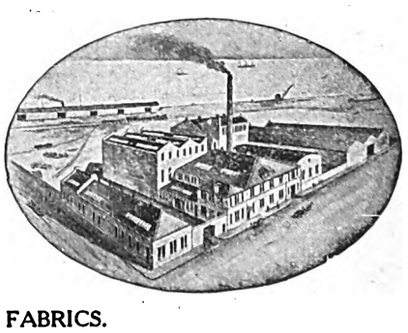

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Continued Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 18, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active, and wide fluctuations have been registered; the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellarides : $1.85 up for January, $1.70 up for March, $1.40 up for May, $1.20 up for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $3.10 up for December, $2.90 up for February, $3 up for April, $1.55 up for October, 1925. The week commenced with excited and rising markets for Sakel, and touched, on Saturday last, $58—the highest of the season; this rise was due to speculative manipulation and to a certain amount of commercial buying; however, the advance was too rapid, and resulted in almost completely stopping business with spinners, and causing some profit-taking, which made the market lose a good portion of the rise. We think that Sakel futures have recently been somewhat overbought, and unless the demand from abroad revives, which is doubtful, owing to the approach of Christmas and New Year holidays, we think that a recovery in the immediate future is somewhat unlikely. Ashmouni contracts, in opposition to Sakel, have shown much strength; the reversing of straddles and heavy commercial buying are the reasons for this strength. The difference between Sakellarides January and Ashmouni February is now $21.25, whilst the difference of the latter with March New York is $8.82. At the second December tender no dockets were issued; there are, however, rumours that at the third tender fairly big lines of cotton will be delivered. The news from the textile centres is satisfactory, and all reports point to an increased consumption of cotton during the current season. The movement in the interior is slightly quieter. A few factories are now working only intermittently. Native holders of cotton are, in general, in a good financial position, and there is no obligation for them to sell their cotton. The week's receipts amount to 356,701 krs., against exports 283,692 krs.; the stock stands at 2,033,443 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of good markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 38,400 B/s, of which we estimate 12,000 B/s Sakellarides, 16,500 B/s Uppers, 8,900 B/s Zagora, 300 B/s Pilion, 300 B/s Brown, and 400 B/s White. Spinners have continued to show great interest in Uppers and Zagora, and these growths have absorbed the major portion of the demand. Sakellarides has been, by comparison, neglected, although speculative interests have pushed Futures prices up considerably. The present high level of prices is obviously attractive to holders, especially of Sakel, excepting the really high grades, which are in some degree specialities, and there has been free offering of cotton all week and a marked disposition to meet the market.

Sakellarides.—Good grade cotton has attracted most attention, though there has been a fair demand also for medium qualities. Good Fair and below are in poor request. Prices of spot against contracts are generally considerably cheaper, although Good and better have not eased as much as the other qualities. The demand for Sakel generally has fallen away considerably.

Upper Egypt and Zagora Lower Egypt have been in very good demand, and a large business has been transacted. Spot premiums are a little easier for Good Fair and below; for Fully Good Fair they are without change and firm, but for the better qualities they are appreciably dearer. Cotton, however, is freely offered in the qualities below Fully Good Fair, the level of prices being attractive to holders, who are now marketing their cotton freely.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done without much change in spot parities.

Brown has met with a moderate demand at about last week's rates.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums have eased considerably.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Indian Demand for Cloth.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 27 states :—

The Christmas holiday has restricted the working days of this week to three, and, as usual, the last of those was not taken very seriously from a business point of view. On those three days, however, the better inquiry of last week was continued, and a fairly satisfactory state of affairs prevailed.

Yarn.—Without any feature of special note, the tone has been a little better, and it appears that the turnover last week was larger than estimated at the time. Quotations are firm, and apparently the increased production is being absorbed. In Egyptian spinnings the tone is very firm, although new orders are not plentiful.

Cloth.—India has shown signs of more activity than recently, and there is consequently a slight change for the better in this section. China remains very sluggish, but for Egypt and other Near Eastern outlets several contracts have been placed.

Raw Cotton.—Prices of American are practically unchanged, business in Liverpool having been very small. The ginning report published last week-end gave a total of 12,796,000 bales to date. The figures were considered satisfactory, but were without effect on the market. In Egyptian cotton the position remains doubtful, and quotations are ¾d. up. Closing quotations on the 24th instant were as follows :—American Middling, 13.24; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 29.35.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Rather Quieter Tone.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 24 :—

Egyptian Futures.—Rather a quieter tone has been in evidence in this market throughout the week, and in the earlier days a reactionary movement in the Alexandria Sakel options, coupled with a fair amount of local liquidation, carried the list approximately 150 points below our last circular rates. With spot premiums well maintained and our contract still running about 200 points below an import basis, it is obvious that sustained pressure is out of the question, and once the periodical bouts of liquidation are terminated, fresh buyers find difficulty in securing any weight of cotton without materially affecting values. This week has been no exception, and with quite a moderate amount of trade support and speculative buying during the past two days, prices have practically regained the earlier losses, closing to-night at 25 to 45 points decline for near positions and 25 lower to 30 points advance for the distant months. Whilst we have no definite news on the point, we rather surmise that the sharp break witnessed in the January option in Alexandria during Thursday and Friday's sessions was due to the weaker part of the "Bull" element unloading. This naturally tightens the hold of the stronger outstanding interest, who will probably run the position till well into the month; heavy fluctuations are inevitable, but with the knowledge of the limited stocks of pure Sakel cotton and the heavy premiums obtaining for same, a further pronounced upward movement is quite likely to be forced. Business in Manchester is proceeding on quiet lines, and it will have to be left to the first few weeks in the New Year to disclose in full the effect of the recent appreciation in the raw material on the trade generally. Spinners' takings continue on very healthy lines, last week's figures totalling over 18,000 bales. The present situation is such that a very conservative policy is essential. However, our contract appears a reasonable proposition in comparison to spot values, and should any material set-backs occur, minor operations on the "long" side would probably be justified. Little interest has been shown in the November, 1925, Sakel and Upper options, and prices on the week are unchanged for the former and 10 points higher for the latter.

Egyptian Spot.—Despite fluctuations of a more or less important character in the futures market, the general tone has been somewhat quieter than during the past two or three weeks, and an increased irregularity in prices has been accompanied by an easier tendency all round. No doubt the approaching holidays, coupled with the huge forwardings, have been responsible for this. It is indeed remarkable under the circumstances that prices have not eased much more than has actually been the case, as the daily inquiry has shrunk to very meagre proportions, and the amount of business passing is very small. Manchester in particular has shown very little interest in Egyptian cotton this week. Alexandria still holds the key to the situation, and as long as such a firm front is maintained in that market there seems little hope of any substantial decline here. There is nothing fresh to report in the local situation. Uppers have fully maintained the ground they gained recently as compared with Sakel, and at a present difference of 10.00d. per lb. there would still appear to be room for further appreciation. Nineteen pence per lb. appears to be the spinners' idea of the value of Good Uppers at the moment. (The official quotation for such cotton to-day is 19.75d.)

There has been a fair inquiry for the lower grades at from 17.50d. to 18.00d., but such cotton does not seem to exist in our market. In Sakellaridis, the better cotton at from 350 to 450 on has met with some inquiry, and the low and inferior grades have received slightly more attention, but in both cases the amount of actual business has been very small. Alexandria offers of Sakellaridis have been far from attractive, and certainly our selection here, although showing latterly a considerable improvement as regards quantity, leaves a great deal to be desired as regards the quality of the staple.

Pilion continues to enjoy a small sustained inquiry, but prices show great irregularity. Some very good cotton changed hands this week at under 23.00d., which appeared very reasonable with F.G.F. Sakel quoted at 28.60d. on the same day. A fair business has taken place in Sudan cotton at prices ranging from 20.50d. for the White variety to 31.00d. for the Sakel. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 19th instant were returned at the large figure of 18,774 bales. Estimated sales 1,100 bales Egyptian and 800 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are reduced 15 to 35 points, those of Brown and Upper 35 points. F.G.F. Sakellaridis 29.25d.

A report from Jaffa dated November 29 received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank states that the sale of the first direct shipment to England of oranges realised 11s. 1d. to 13s. 6d. per case, which is not a favourable price.

The Greek Government is encouraging the construction of a railway from Agrinion to Janina, which is designed to form a section of a more extensive line, ultimately to link up with other railroads of the Government (says an American Consular report). The extension is also contemplated of railway communications north of Janina.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	261-263
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	309-313
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.30-24.32
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6$\frac{5}{32}$-$\frac{11}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.75-94.85
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	915-920
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6$\frac{5}{32}$-$\frac{3}{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	870-880
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.72⅞-4.73⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87.40-87.45
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	156⅜-156⅝
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	111.45-.50
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	637-645
Teheran	Krans to £	50	39½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	334-337,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.50-24.70

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Company Meeting.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.

Increased Dividends.

The following is a translation of the report of the Land Bank of Egypt for the year ended September 30 last, which was presented at the annual meeting held at Alexandria on December 2:—

Before submitting for your approval the ordinary accounts for the year 1923-24 the directors have the honour of presenting to you first the financial results with regard to our 4 per cent. bonds issued in francs. As we announced in our report for the previous year, we have continued during the past year to purchase these bonds, capital and coupons, at the sight rate of exchange on Paris. Most of the holders, appreciating the advantages of utilising their French funds at a more profitable rate of interest than that provided by our shares, have responded to our offer, and we have repaid more than four-fifths of our bonds. As regards those which are still in circulation we have made adequate provision in France for the service of their interest and amortisation for the remainder of the period still to run, which is 57 years.

The repayment, either by purchases or by amortisation, of our 4 per cent. bonds being thus assured, the premiums and charges of our bonds of all classes being wholly amortised, the net profits resulting from these operations so successfully continued during two years stand at £E999,124.558, of which £E737,551.349 arises from the bonds purchased, the balance being in respect of the provision constituted as stated above. On the advice of eminent counsel, whom we have consulted in France and Egypt, these substantial profits can now be made the subject of a distribution in conformity with articles 44 and 45 of the statutes. But we feel that their distribution ought to be subject to the rules of prudence, which your directors have always followed in the direction of your business, so as not to diminish the volume of our mortgage transactions. Wishing to give satisfaction at the same time to all legitimate interests and to the duty which is incumbent on them of taking care of and furthering the development of our business activity, the directors submit for your approval the following proposals based on the principle that exceptional profits should be distributed on account of each of the classes interested, following the order and the proportion indicated by the statutes, the rights of each being henceforth and already definitely fixed by the decision which your meeting will take with full knowledge of the circumstances. Consequently, by the application of article 44 of the statutes, the sum of £E999,124.558 will be divided as follows:—10 per cent. to the statutory reserve (£E99,912.455), 10 per cent. to the board of directors (£E99,912.455); the balance (£E799,299.648), 70 per cent. to the ordinary shares (£559,509.754), 30 per cent. to the founders' shares (£E239,789.894), total, £E999,124.558. The privilege of each of the classes having rights being thus definitely established an account will be opened in the company's books for those interested, the sums written down being carried to their respective credits. Each account will receive interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the balance after the special distribution which will be referred to later, this interest being taken each year from the profit and loss account of the year as from the year 1924-25. As regards the capital itself, it will be amortised in a maximum period of forty years, by equal fractions of a fortieth, the necessary amounts for amortisation being taken from the capital recovered on our mortgage loans. The maximum delay can be diminished, and on the proposal of the directors, your meeting will have every facility compatible with the circumstances and the financial conditions of the company for deciding on an earlier distribution, so as to reduce the delay in the repayment of the accounts.

It appears to us equitable and to conform to the rights of all to proceed this year to pay by way of bonus a sum of £E100,000, representing about a tenth of the special profits of the purchase of our bonds. After this distribution there will remain to the credit of each of the classes interested the following sums.—Statutory reserve, 10 per cent., £E89,912.455, to the board of directors, 10 per cent., £E89,912.455; the balance, £E719,299.648, to the ordinary shares; 70 per cent., £E503,509.754, to the holders of founders' shares; 30 per cent., £E215,789.894, total, £E899,124.558. The interest of 5 per cent. on these various amounts will be raised in future years, as we have said above, on the profit and loss account. The distribution of annual profits of each year will follow this order:—(1) Statutory dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares; (2) 5 per cent. interest on the balance due to each class having rights; (3) *tantièmes* and the ordinary dividend of year pro rata established by the statutes.

Profit and Loss Account.

The receipts of the year arising from interest on mortgage loans, short term advances, etc., have been £E366,919.100. The service of the bonds, general expenses, fiscal taxes paid or due to the French Government, and various redemptions we propose to you, which stand at £E15,511.817, absorb a total sum of £E176,232.990. The profits to be distributed amount to £E190,686.200. From that sum there has first to be deducted the statutory 5 per cent. in favour of our 195,000 shares, £E47,531.250, and there remains to be divided £E143,154.950. In accordance with our statutes, 10 per cent. is placed to the statutory reserve £E14,315.495, and 10 per cent. goes to the board of directors £E14,315.495, £E28,630.990, leaving £E114,523.960; 70 per cent. to the shares £E80,166.772, to which has to be added the amount brought forward from the year 1922-23 £E8,276.729, making £E88,443.501. We propose to you to give out of this sum to the 195,000 shares 9s. per share, £E85,556.250, which, added to the statutory interest of 5 per cent. already mentioned, will represent a total dividend of 14s. per share. The carry forward for the shares will thus be £E2,887.251. An interim dividend of 5s. having been paid on June 15, it will remain to pay a dividend of 9s. per share. The 30 per cent. belonging to the founders' shares represents £E34,357.188, to which has to be added the amount brought forward from the year 1922-23, £E4,596.269, We propose to distribute a dividend of £7 12s. on each founders' share, and to carry forward £E1,903.457.

The Resolutions.

The general meeting unanimously (1) approved the accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended September 30, 1924, and gave the directors their discharge for their administration. (2) Approved the fixing at £E999,124.558, the net profit resulting from the purchase of the 4 per cent. bonds on their amortisation by drawings or as regards those still in circulation from the provision in francs adequate to guarantee their service in respect of interest and amortisation. Of this £E999,124.558 there will be taken immediately the sum of £E100,000, which will be distributed in accordance with article 44 of the statutes as follows:—10 per cent. to the statutory reserve £E10,000, 10 per cent. to the board of directors, £E10,000, the balance, £E80,000, 70 per cent. to the ordinary shares, £E56,000, 30 per cent. to the founders' shares, £E24,000; total, £E100,000. A special supplementary coupon, bearing the number 28, will then be paid this year, under the head of bonus, at the same time as the ordinary coupon hereafter arranged, and it will be for the ordinary shares 5s. 10d., for the founders' shares £4 18s. After the distribution of £E100,000 there will remain a profit which, in conformity with article 44 of the statutes, will be divided in the following manner:—To the statutory reserve, 10 per cent., £E89,912.455; to the board of directors, £E89,912.455; the balance, £719,299.648, to the ordinary shareholders, 70 per cent., £E503,509.754, to the holders of founders' shares 30 per cent., £E215,789.894, total, £E899,124.558. The allocation of this total of £E899,124.558 to each of the categories having rights is thus definitely established; there will be opened in the books an account for the interested parties, the sums being carried to their respective credits. Each account will bear an annual interest of 5 per cent. on the balance remaining at the end of each year, the said interest being taken each year from the profits and loss account of the year from the year 1924-25. As regards the capital itself it will be amortised in a maximum period of forty years by equal fractions of a fortieth, the sums necessary for amortisation being taken from the capital recovered from mortgage loans. (3) Approved the division of profits proposed by the directors, and fixed the dividends as follows:—14s. on the ordinary shares, £7 12s. on the founders' shares. An interim dividend of 5s. per ordinary share having been paid on June 15, it will remain to pay as a final settlement for the year 1921-22 9s. per share. (4) Decided to carry forward £E2,887.251, or 74,847.51 francs, for the ordinary shares, and £E1,903.457, or 49,344.31 francs, for the founders' shares. (5) Re-elected MM. S. Wellhoff, E. Cazalet, and S. E. Ahmed Ziwer Pacha, the retiring directors. (6) Nominated as auditors, MM. Franz Sofio, H. Pougin, and A. Ferren. (7) Fixed the directors' fees at £5 per meeting.

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TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

The Sudan.

Steel Tank.—The Inspector-General of Sudan Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of a mild steel tank, dimensions 10 × 10 × 2½ metres, to be used for water, with a small head between the two levels; the plates and the angle frames should be supplied drilled and cut according to the dimensions required, and ready to be erected in the sudds zone. January 15.

Egypt.

Printing Paper, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of printing and writing paper, bristol-board, grey-board, and straw-board. January 13.

Locomotives.—The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for five passenger engines for the Luxor-Assuan Line. The gauge of this line is 3 ft. 6 in. January 13. (D.O.T.)

General Stores.—The Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of general stores and clothing required by the Frontier Districts Administration for the year 1925-26. The goods required include permanent stores, oils, paints, varnishes, and other consumable stores, and clothing and cloth. Tenders, on the proper form, must reach the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, not later than noon on January 14, 1925. It should also be noted that samples of permanent stores, oils, paints, etc., should reach the F.D.A. Arsenal ten days before the date fixed for opening tenders. (D.O.T.)

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, tents, etc., required for the year 1925-1926. January 16.

Binding and Printing Material.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of binding and printing material. Price of conditions of contract: 50 mills. per copy. January 23.

Stationery, etc.—The Director, Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stationery articles and papers required for the year 1925-1926. February 2.

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two English tons of candles. February 3.

Surgical Instruments, Appliances, and Sundries.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of surgical instruments, appliances, and sundries required for the central stores of the Department of Public Health for the period April 1, 1925, to March 31, 1926. January 27. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Sulphate of Copper.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of sulphate of copper. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Barbed Wire.—The Commission des achats des chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of five tons of galvanised barbed wire. (D.O.T.)

Adjudications.

The call for tenders by the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones by October 20 for the supply of modern railway sleepers, resulted in sixteen offers being received, and among the orders placed were the following:—Messrs. Millars Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., London: 90,000 oregon pine sleepers for normal gauge line, at the price of 362 mills. each, delivered c.i.f. Gabbary; Messrs. Canusa Trading Co., London: 60,000 oregon pine (Douglas fir) Sleepers for normal gauge line, at the price of 364 mills. each, delivered c.i.f. Gabbary; 3,000 oregon pine (Douglas fir) sleepers for turnouts, 3 metres long, at the price of 516 mills., delivered c.i.f. Gabbary; 4,000 oregon pine (Douglas fir) sleepers for turnouts, 3.50 metres long, at the price of 589 mills. each, delivered c.i.f. Gabbary.

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., has opened a branch at Musky, Cairo.

The first power cotton ginning plant to be established in Syria is under construction by a French firm.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank will be held at the offices of the company, Basildon House, Moorgate, E.C.2, on January 13, at 11 a.m.

WESTMINSTER BANK
LIMITED

LETTERS OF CREDIT & CIRCULAR NOTES

The Bank's Letters of Credit and Circular Notes provide travellers with the safest means of obtaining cash in any part of the world. With them is supplied a list of Agents, and the customer is thus brought into touch with first-class bankers in every town, all of whom are under obligation to give him courteous and fair treatment. The customer is also sure of profiting by the most favourable rates of exchange

Head Office: 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Indo-Burma Oilfields.

The report of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) for the year to March 31, 1924, states that the working expenditure in Burma was £37,997 and the revenue £27,755, giving an actual working loss of £10,242. To this has to be added the well site rents at Yenangyaung, the amount written off advances to well site owners at Yenangyaung, loss on sale of surplus stores, loss in exchange, etc., altogether amounting to £8,775, interest on debenture stock and directors' and debenture trustees' fees accrued and unpaid £30,721, and London expenditure £3,310, making a total debit for the year of £53,049. A sum of £20,006 was received in respect of premiums on preference shares, and this has been applied as regards £18,254 in writing off underwriting commission on preference share issue, expenses of capital reduction, and in reducing book value of various assets. The balance of £1,752 has been used in reducing the debit on profit and loss, making that figure £51,297. Since June last practically the whole of the expenditure in Burma, both in production and development, has been met by the proceeds realised from sale of crude oil.

As a result of the geological examination of properties in Chindwin district, it has been decided, on the recommendation of the geological staff, to surrender Chaungzauk, Hmawgyi, Kwyedaung, and the two Patalon areas, and to retain Mawlaik and Mawku areas, which have been favourably reported on. An exhaustive survey has been carried out on the extensive Yenanma area during the last two years, and the directors regret to state that no additional areas have been located which show promise of developing into oilfields. The geologists have accordingly recommended that the whole of the Yenanma area, with the exception of the present producing area and a small extension thereof, be also surrendered. A geological survey has also been made of the Mindegyi area, and as a result of this and of experience gained from drilling on the area the geologists recommend that the whole of this area, with the exception of one square mile, be also given up. The company's properties will, therefore, as soon as existing prospecting licences run out, be as follows :—0.8 square mile Yenanma oilfield, 4.8 square miles Padaukpin oilfield, 1.0 square mile Mindegyi oilfield, 4.0 square miles Okpon area, 8.31 square miles Mawlaik-Mawku area, Upper Chindwin district, a total of 18.91 square miles. Drilling has been carried on continuously, drilling of company from its formation totalling 90.230 ft. The production for the year totalled 7,711.6 tons. The whole of the output of crude oil is being sold to the Burmah Oil Company. At Yenanma a number of additional wells have been drilled on the present producing area, and have been brought in with an average production of between 6 and 7 barrels per well per day, being approximately the average for the field. The production obtained has more than counterbalanced any slight falling off in production in earlier wells drilled on the area.

Ionian Bank.

The report of the Ionian Bank, Limited, for the year ended August 30, states that the profits, etc., amount to £63,076, to which has to be added the balance brought forward, £12,467, together making £75,543, from which there has been paid an interim dividend at 3s. per share, free of income-tax, paid June 10, £14,567, leaving available for distribution £60,976. This the directors propose should be disposed of as follows : Final dividend at 3s. per share, free of income-tax, £14,567 ; bonus at 2s. per share, free of income-tax, £9,711 ; transfer to reserve fund, making that fund £190,000, £20,000 ; transfer to Greek branches pension fund, Drs. 1,000,000, £4,056 ; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £12,640. The dividend and bonus, if agreed to, will be payable on and after January 14. The directors are pleased to report that the business of the bank continues to show satisfactory expansion, as a result of which they are recommending to the proprietors an increase in the customary rates of bonus from 1 to 2 per cent. per annum. An agency of the bank has been opened at Argos in connection with the Nauplia branch, and a sub-branch to the bank's office at Constantinople (Galata) has been opened at Stamboul. The investments of the bank stand on the books at figures well below the actual market value. Meeting, Basildon House, Moorgate, January 13, 11 a.m.

East Indian Railway.

The report of the East Indian Railway for the half-year ended September 30 shows that the gross receipts from all sources were Rs. 83,55,872 more than those of the corresponding period of 1923. The working expenses were also greater by Rs. 34,83,404, there being an increase in net earnings of Rs. 48,72,468. The net earnings of the undertaking and the South Behar Railway, together with the sum received for working the D.U.K. Railway for the half-year, amount to Rs. 3,60,55,437. From this has to be deducted Rs. 2,15,02,543 in respect of charges, leaving a divisible surplus of Rs. 1,45,52,894, the company's share of which is Rs. 4,21,029. This amount, after deducting Indian income and super taxes, has, at the contract rate of exchange, produced £30,258. After payment of the dividend authorised at the meeting held in July last, the balance in the surplus profit account enables directors to recommend the payment of a dividend (subject to English income-tax) of 7s. 10d. per cent. on the capital represented by the deferred annuity and deferred annuity Class "D" of the company. This, with 3s. 10d., the amount received under Clause 4 of the Secretary of State's contract with the company as compensation for income-tax for the period of the half-year under review, will make 11s. 8d. in all, which is in addition to the guaranteed interest. The guaranteed interest up to the end of July, 1924, was distributed on August 1 last, and there remains, therefore, only that for the five months from August 1 to the end of the contract. This amounts to £1 13s. 4d. per cent. on the capital represented by the deferred annuities of both classes, making a total distribution of £2 5s. per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from December 20 to December 26 amounted to 3,910,000 francs, as compared with 3,160,000 francs.

Major Robert Findlay, chairman and managing director of T. D. Findlay and Co., East India merchants, a director of the British and Burmese Steam Navigation Company and of J. Dunn and Stephen, vice-chairman of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, left personal estate in Britain valued at £209,416.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

Complete Banking Facilities for the Near East.

The Only British Bank in Greece.

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IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.

Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

Travel by the fast and comfortable steamers

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ROUMANIAN STATE MARITIME SERVICE

Regular Services between

Constantza, Constantinople, Piraeus,

and between

Constantza, Constantinople, Haifa, Jaffa.

For further particulars please apply to the Roumanian State Maritime Service, Bucharest, or any of their agencies.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, SOFIA.

Capital 24 millions Leva.
Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

Branches:
Varna and Bourgas

Telegraphic Address:
"Bulcomit."

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COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE

(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

BRANCHES IN GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, CYPRUS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

Telegraphic Address: BANCATHEN.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

Court of Directors.
SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., [K.C.B.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

Agencies and Branches.

ALOR STAR (Malay States)	DELHI	KUCHING (Sarawak)	SEREMBAN
AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MADRAS	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(Philippine Islands)

Bankers.
THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, **DEPOSITS OF MONEY** are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000 **Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £340,000**

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

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THE NEAR EAST

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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No. 713—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Serbs and Croats.

On the ground that the Croat Peasant Party is a Communist body under the orders, through its leaders, of an alien subversive organisation, its immediate dissolution has been ordered by the Yugoslav Government. All meetings, publications, and other public work of the party are prohibited; its archives and correspondence are confiscated, its members will not be allowed to stand for Parliament, and criminal proceedings are to be taken against its leaders. Such is the reply of the Pashitch Government to the exasperating tactics adopted by M. Raditch. If the Croat leader had been a wiser or more practical man, he would have known how to come to terms with M. Davidovitch, the late Prime Minister, and would have collaborated with the Belgrade authorities in constitutional amendments of the Vidovdan Constitution. He persisted, however, in purely wrecking tactics, and the heavy hand of M. Pashitch has now descended upon him and his followers. The experience of the Davidovitch Cabinet proved that a working arrangement with the Croat party was out of the question so long as its destinies were controlled by M. Raditch, and the new Government has sought to cut the Gordian knot by proscribing the leader and his followers. Many will regret the drastic step, and Yugoslavia may even come to rue it; but those who feel inclined to challenge M. Pashitch's action must first produce a workable alternative.

Might Have Been's.

M. Pashitch would have been able to meet criticism more confidently if he had shown himself at any time willing to effect a compromise with the Croats. They stood at first merely for a different conception of what was the best form of constitution for the new Kingdom, favouring a federal system of government in opposition to the highly centralised form that commended itself to the Serbs. If M. Pashitch had adopted more persuasive methods of giving effect to his own policy, it is possible that the alienation of Croatia would have been avoided. It was not Communism that originally prompted M. Raditch to champion the federal system; but when he discovered the strength of the forces arrayed against him, he coquetted first with republicanism, and then in desperation placed himself in the power of Moscow, as he came to realise that there was no chance of help from any other quarter. Foreigners who have known him personally will be inclined to regard him more as a fool than as a traitor; but when he deliberatly flouted the overtures of the Davidovitch Cabinet, he could hardly expect the Serbs to take an equally charitable view of his actions. The new Government has satisfied itself that his party has come within the arm of the law, and it has proceeded to extreme measures. Political exponents will regard the proscription of the Croat Peasant Party as a preliminary precaution for a Radical success at the elections next month. They will, however, be effectually answered if the arrested leaders are tried before the elections and the evidence against them proves conclusively that they were acting under the direct orders of the Soviet authorities against the institutions of the Yugoslav State. M. Raditch himself has been found in hiding in Zagreb—an ignominious *dénouement*. Never has a perfectly sound and reasonable policy been advocated in a more unreasonable way or on unsounder lines.

The Bulgarian Tour.

Although the Government of M. Pashitch has shown no objection to taking a leaf out of Bulgaria's book in dealing with its own Communists, it does not seem to have extended a very practical welcome to the Bulgarian Prime Minister, who came to Belgrade ostensibly to discuss joint action against Soviet intrigues in the Peninsula. M. Tsankoff, on his return to Sofia from his visits to Yugoslavia and Roumania, has made the admission that the Bolshevist peril was not so great as to justify a formal pact, and he has had to be content with an exchange of views with the idea of common action against Bolshevist agitation. In spite of the outward failure of his mission, we are not inclined to believe that the tour has been altogether in vain. It is good that there should be discussions between the different Balkan Governments. If M. Tsankoff was unwise enough to use in Belgrade

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the Communist peril as an argument for an increase in the strength of the Bulgarian Army and the abolition of the voluntary system of enlistment, he will have courted a rebuff. Bulgaria's contention on each point is entirely justified, but it would have been an unfortunate error of judgment to have urged these contentions on the occasion of a first visit to Belgrade for the purpose of concerting joint action on the part of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Statesmanship would suggest the joint action first, and then the making use of it as an additional argument for ridding Bulgaria of her unfair disabilities.

Bulgaria's Dilemma.

The Bulgarian Government is deserving of sympathy in that it finds itself on the horns of a dilemma; if it makes no protest, it is apt to be regarded as content with the *status quo;* if it puts forward arguments in favour of its contentions it exposes itself to the charge of challenging the peace of Europe. The embarrassing predicament is almost an inevitable outcome of the War. Bulgaria has gone a long way towards rehabilitating herself as a result of the dignified attitude that she has adopted hitherto. It would be unfortunate if her exemplary patience were to become exhausted at this point, for her one chance is to persevere in the correct course that she has followed until now. Whether in regard to the Treaty of Neuilly or in the details of Reparations she will do better by confining herself to official protests in responsible quarters and avoiding anything in the nature of "enveloping movements." A Press campaign, for instance, is more likely to lose ground for Bulgaria than to gain it: in the same way it would have been a tactical mistake to raise in Belgrade the question of the strength of the Bulgarian Army, which is a matter for the Allied Powers to settle.

Elections in Egypt.

The primary election for the electoral delegates in Egypt is fixed for January 20, and the country is preparing eagerly for the event. Much is being made of secessions from the Zaghloulist party, and these suggest that terrorism is no longer as potent in Egyptian politics as it was before. The determining factor, however, will be the efficacy of the organisation of the different parties. The Zaghloulists had actually nominated a candidate for practically every one of the 214 constituencies, as compared with 154 Constitutional Liberals and 140 Independents, but defections have reduced their numbers to 192. Thus more anti-Wafd candidates will be in the field than followers of Zaghloul Pasha; but it is doubtful whether their organisation will be as efficient as that of their opponents. One method of eliminating terrorism has been attempted by prohibiting the formation of students' committees for the purpose of intervening in the electoral campaign. The students are protesting on the ground that such a veto is interference with the liberty of the individual; but it must be evident even in Egypt that the student nuisance had passed all limits, and sooner or later would have to be dealt with. Excesses directed to-day against the British may suit the authorities for the time being, but to-morrow the system is capable of being used to bring all government to a standstill, and no self-respecting Administration could allow the evil to go unchecked, as Zaghloul Pasha himself did. Ziwar Pasha's Cabinet has at least shown that while it is in power it is prepared to govern—a novel experience for the country after Zaghloul Pasha's flabby tenure of office.

The Constantinople Press.

There has been further trouble between the Angora Government and the Constantinople Press, leading to the suspension of two or more papers, one of them an English publication. As nothing is known here of the merits of the dispute, we can only refer to the question involved on general lines. There can be little doubt that the Turkish Press is apt to mistake liberty for licence; its remarks, whether on the shortcomings of its own Government or on those of foreign countries, are often characterised by what seems to the English reader an amazing lack of ballast, if not of decency; but one must infer that the practice would not be indulged in if it were calculated to give equal offence to Turkish readers. In the circumstances it is difficult to accuse the Angora Government of being over-sensitive in regard to Press criticism. Its own point of view is that it has no objection to—but rather welcomes—constructive criticism; on the other hand, it resents mere destructive criticism or abuse, such as it meets with from time to time in the Turkish Press of Constantinople, and no less the unhelpful sarcasm or jibes of which it complains in a section of the English Press. With regard to the latter it is probably only necessary to call attention to the Turkish Government's point of view to ensure that its susceptibilities will not be further offended. The British Press is instinctively prepared to give everyone who is known to be doing his best a fair chance; and if it has been sarcastic in the case of certain Turkish matters, it will have been because these did not seem to be of sufficient importance to call for too serious handling. In these questions there is generally room for a policy of give and take. The changed outlook of the Turkish Government in regard to foreign affairs in general, and in particular towards Great Britain, is welcomed in this country, and no newspaper mindful of its responsibility in the matter will deliberately set out to prejudice Anglo-Turkish relations by thoughtlessness.

A Pilgrim Premier.

While Turkey is eliminating the Moslem religion from public affairs, even to the extent, so it is anticipated, of laying hands on the Evkaf, Persia is emphasising the close relationship of Islam and the State. When the Prime Minister, the Sardar Sipah, was on the point of transforming the Monarchy into a Republic, he was prevented from taking the step by the influence of the Shiah priesthood, and felt called upon to make a gesture of resignation to atone for his impious intentions. Now at the zenith of his power, when he has successfully disposed of the only challenge to his authority in South Persia, and has brought the Persian army to a higher standard of efficiency than it has known before, he has undertaken a pilgrimage to the Iraqi Holy Places, Nejef and Kerbela. The immediate result would seem to be a marked accession of popularity, for his return to Teheran has been made the occasion for great popular enthusiasm. The contrast thus presented by the two neighbouring countries in their attitudes to Islam is most striking. Only the future, however, will be able to point the moral. In the meantime, Mustapha Kemal Pasha may feel tempted to envy the Sardar Sipah his waxing popularity.

INDIA.

Extremists in Council.

The political palavers which still mark the Christmas season in India appear to be declining

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steadily in importance, and this year they carry the country a very short distance on the long road before it. The extremists at Belgaum seem to have paid very little attention to Mr. Gandhi, whom they had placed in the chair, and his address has been aptly described by a Calcutta journal as a stately mausoleum reared over the remains of once sacred and beloved objects! To put matters more bluntly, the practical politicians have at last succeeded in shelving the impractical saint, and, though Mr. Gandhi's course cannot be predicted, there are at present no signs that the verdict of the Congress will be reversed in the court of public opinion. According to the rules of the game, as it is played in India, the politicians who have combined to secure this result should now begin to fight among themselves for the vacant throne, and the struggle ought to furnish an interesting spectacle, seeing that among the protagonists are some of the cleverest men in the country, but we fear it will not carry us much further, unless, indeed, it should help to open the eyes of the electorate to the futility of the whole business.

The Failure of the Liberals.

Nor can we see much hope for the country in the deliberations of the Liberals at Lucknow. They had a great chance under the new Constitution, but they muddled away their initial advantages, and now they are trying to reconstruct their platform out of planks already appropriated by their successful opponents. The result does not inspire much confidence, for the borrowed planks do not fit the substructure, and we fancy that those electors who have a taste for extremist measures will stick to the party which offers all of them, while those who want something different will be deterred from supporting the party which offers so many. The present Liberal programme, at any rate, does not provide a rallying-point for the various steadying elements of Indian life, which, if only someone could bring them together, would probably be strong enough to control the situation. There is room here for leaders gifted with courage and insight, but those gifts have scarcely yet had time to develop, and they were certainly not conspicuous among the Liberals at Lucknow. When a real leader comes forward, he will not have to wait long for an adequate following.

The Anglo-Indian Community.

We have to thank the Anglo-Indian Association in London for a copy of the memorandum now being circulated to members of Parliament on the position of the community under existing conditions. Its gist is that Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans have already been affected prejudicially by the new Constitution, and that their interests are threatened more seriously by the possibility of further concessions to the demands of Indian politicians; they ask, therefore, that any future legislation shall protect their vital interests. The community thus comes into line with various other sections of the population—Moslems, non-Brahmins, Sikhs, depressed classes, and so on—each of them apprehensive of any extension of what is in effect an inchoate Brahmin oligarchy. We fear it must be admitted that these apprehensions are reasonable, in view of the action of some of the provincial Councils, and the Association has ample justification for approaching Parliament direct, but would it not be possible to find allies in India also from some of the other minorities in the same position? Or is it too soon to suggest that such heterogeneous communities may further their interests most effectively by a working alliance among themselves?

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The New Year.

For a few hours on New Year's Eve the weather held its hand, and we were able for the briefest nonce to look at the heavens through rainless distances. Hopefully, therefore, we wrung out the Old Year, and, it seemed, many others—far more than usual—did the same. But those pitiless, rainless heavens deceived us; another few hours and we were dismally wringing in the New Year. The time is indeed fit but for "little tiny boys."

The Gales and Floods.

Not for thirty years has this country been so buffeted with wind and with rain. The Old Year went out, roughly speaking, in howls and tears; nor can the New Year yet escape from them. Much damage has already been done, and the countryside must be seen to be believed. In certain parts, indeed, towns built on a hill are complete islands; roads, with stakes pegged in to show the way, are now used as the course of rivers, for boats are the only means of transport. Little rivers like the Colne, the Wey, the Lodden, the Kennet, and the Mole, have risen and spread most fiercely, and, in many places, alarmingly. The Thames Valley is, in fact, become a waste of waters. Runnels and ditches have everywhere been converted into streams, and the bosom of Father Thames is simply overflowing with grief. I have never seen anything like it.

Of course, there have been worse times—there always have been. The sagest old men still whisper fearfully of the time when the waters climbed the wall of Twickenham's old church. But this is good enough for most of us.

Honours.

Quite the most notable thing that Mr. Baldwin's Administration has achieved is its drawing up of the Honours List. The gloss over the services of politicians is delightfully complete; there is hardly a man or a woman in the list who does not manifestly deserve some honour. There is little point in going into detail, but it is worth noting that practically every name is evidence of the Prime Minister's interest in the "humane" side of life. The Prime Minister is—so patently and yet so unostentatiously that one cannot withhold expression of admiration—that increasingly rare phenomenon in English politics, a cultured and gentle man. For a party man thus to pass by the petty controversial services and make straight for permanent values is a most hopeful and encouraging sign.

The Dearer Loaf.

The Royal Commission which is sitting on the question of the dearer loaf has not yet got very far. It has, it is true, tackled the baker, from whom the consumer buys his bread. But the baker blames the miller, so that the charge against him is difficult to sustain. The miller, no doubt, will blame the wheat rings (who will scarcely be summoned to Whitehall!), who will doubtless blame the American farmers, who will doubtless blame the weather! The manifest trouble is the host of middlemen; but it hardly needed a Royal Commission to tell us that.

The New Zealanders.

I did not see the All Blacks beat England on Saturday, but nobody with whom I talked has suggested that the New Zealanders did not thoroughly deserve their win. It was a very great thing, indeed, so to have maintained their unbeaten

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record, and the Empire is proud of them. That is all for the moment that can be said.

But there is one aspect of international Rugby on which a word may perhaps be said. The journey to and from Twickenham is now one not lightly to be undertaken, the reason being the extraordinary popularity of Rugby since the War. Whether this is due to the Press or not I do not know, but certainly the Press is exploiting it. And with that exploitation comes the inevitable threat of commercialisation, and of the lowering of the standard of the game. Already there are signs that the game is attracting spectators whom, one likes to think, professional Soccer alone should welcome. The spectator who knows more than the referee is the worst danger that any game can have. Club games in Rugger—and, for that matter, in better class Soccer—are safe enough with their spectators; but the fear that international Rugger may follow in the dreadful wake of professional Soccer has already become genuine and well-founded.

England at Melbourne.

Everyone's thoughts and hearts are now in Melbourne, whence the cables with the Test scores come with maddening slowness. It is, one supposes, absurd how much our dispositions depend on the news in the very early evening papers, but the effect of the cricket cables is a fact. There was literally no one who, after hearing on Saturday of the English first wicket stand, could not with the more comfort entertain the prospect of England's being beaten by the New Zealanders in the afternoon; it was "Hobbs is still in: all's right with the world."

But now, how low are we fallen! Sisyphus with his stone was not more tantalised than are we at the fateful inconsistency of England's Test batting. 283 runs for no wickets was indeed the seeing of a great light; and 479 all out was our being plunged into outer darkness again. We will, until we see how Tate's fine fury dismays Australia's batsmen, restrain our weeping and gnashing of teeth, but these middle Colonial bats (I write before seeing the result of Monday's play) are like trumpets outside our walls of faith.

The New English Art Club.

Nothing could so show the differences between "official" and "unofficial" art as a comparison between the Royal Academy and the New English Art Club, the latter of which has just opened a retrospective exhibition in the old London County Council Hall, Spring Gardens, W. This exhibition shows work done during the last forty years, and displays the amazing fertility of the Club and the vital connections which it keeps with its time. It contains beautiful examples of men like Steer, Tonks, Sargent, Orpen, John, Whistler, Rotherstein, Sickert, and of others like the two Nashes, Meninsky, Bone, and McEvoy. Probably it is the show of the year; certainly the most instructive and intriguing. During the next four or five weeks it provides an opportunity of understanding what immense developments have taken and are taking place in English art, and, from the very fact that from this exhibition are excluded some of the crudities which occasionally characterise some of the Club's shows, more visitors will be taught the meaning and the potentialities of English painting.

In a quite different category is the exhibition which the Pastel Society is holding at the Royal Institute Galleries, Piccadilly. There, too, though in much slighter degree, can be found evidence of progress and of individuality in a very charming medium. A very pleasant degree of memorability is to be found in the examples of men like Vernon Hill, Leonard Squirrell, and Littlejohns.

"F. C. G."

Few things could better illustrate the passing of the amenities which used to bedeck the old two-party system of England than a recalling of the success, universally recognised, which greeted the cartoons of Sir Francis Carruthers Gould. His death last week signified the passing, perhaps for all time, of a force in politics which in its day was undoubtedly great. "F. C. G.'s" work delighted Conservatives almost as much as Liberals; it was good-natured, and it appealed to the citizen's sporting instincts. Nowadays the satirist is needed more than the witticist; politics are altogether more earnest and deadly; and it is the distorted caricature rather than the likely cartoon which gets home.

It may be that Dean Inge is right when he praises the spacious pleasaunces of, say, fifty years ago; yet we, who have our Max Beerbohms and our Will Dysons, are not wholly discontent.

1924 Weather.

1924 was the dreariest year of modern times; there is no one who could not write pages on such a thesis. Wet in the spring, wet in the summer, wet to the end. Sunlessness and wet. Let us, looking at 1925, forget all about it. But no; there are those, beside the ridiculous doctors and statisticians, who will not let us forget. We are reminded that we, as players of outdoor games, cannot expect universal acceptation of our judgment of the weather. Very well, then, we say, take instead the opinion of the farmers. But even their sounder prosecution of the case is unacceptable to the shouters of "My country's weather, right or wrong." These people cherish lovingly remembrance of that softening of the cold spring, when gardens burst into sudden and complete glory, of the late September chestnuts and beeches looking still like June, of December flower-beds up through which spurted nasturtium seedlings and larkspurs. There are, it seems, some compensations for everything; and those for whom, even in our 1924's, life is still an adventure, a questing for beauty.

ALTER EGO.

Mr. Asquith returned from the Sudan to Cairo on January 4, and after breakfasting with Viscount Allenby departed for Port Said to embark on board the Pando for England.

Riza Khan, the Sardar Sipah and Prime Minister of Persia, returned to Teheran last week. He was welcomed with a demonstration of great popular enthusiasm, and passed through decorated and greatly crowded streets.

Christmas Day according to the Russian Calendar was celebrated in London yesterday, when a special service was held at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road, which was attended by members of the Russian, Bulgarian, Yugoslav, and Roumanian colonies.

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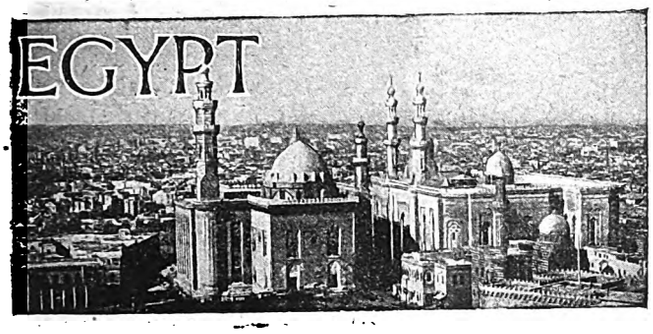
The Near and Middle East.

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 27.

The Electoral Campaign.

Parliament having been dissolved and new elections ordered, Egypt is now fully embarked on the electoral campaign. Manifestoes, party meetings, and discussions of merits and prospects of candidates are the order of the day, and will so remain until February 24, 1925, the day fixed for the final polling.

As has already been foreshadowed, the elections will take place in two degrees, as on the first occasion, and not in one degree, as provided for in the law which Zaghloul Pasha got Parliament to pass last session. The latter had laid down that its application could not be effected unless new electoral lists had been drawn up, but at the time Parliament was dissolved these lists were far from complete. On the other hand, the provision in the Constitution limiting to two months the interval between dissolution and elections rendered it essential that the decrees dissolving Parliament and ordering new elections should be promulgated simultaneously. There was, therefore, no possibility of completing before its application the new lists required by the new electoral law; a return had, therefore, to be made to the original system of two degrees.

Whether the old system will be in the interest of the present Government or not is a question on which opinions are much divided. In a good many quarters, qualified to know, it is maintained that a one-degree election is entirely in favour of the party in office, since the Mudirs, Mamurs, and Omdas, being naturally inclined to support Government candidates, would have a very effective influence on the voters. In a two-degree election, however, where electors only elect groups of thirty electors-delegate, who themselves do the voting for the various candidates, the administrative influence, it is contended, is not likely to be such a satisfactory obstacle to the tactics of an organisation like the Wafd.

The change to one degree in the system of elections effected by the Wafd was undoubtedly based on the assumption that its Cabinet would be in office at the time elections took place. As a precaution, however, the lists were purposely left uncompleted, the idea being that, in the event of an emergency where a Wafd Cabinet might suddenly be replaced by one belonging to the Opposition, the Wafd would force a dissolution, and, by depriving the Government in office of the material time to complete the lists, compel it to resort to the old two-degree system. The Wafd recognised that this system gave more opportunity to an Opposition, particularly an Opposition using its peculiar tactics, and it was undoubtedly encouraged in its plans by the success which had attended its efforts at the last elections when it had also been in opposition. In this connection it should be borne in mind, however, that on the last occasion the Government remained so neutral that it did not even try to prevent the illegal intimidation exercised by the Wafd agents, whereas in the forthcoming elections the Government, far from being neutral, will be compelled to take an active part, since it is itself so directly interested in the defeat of the Wafd.

Egypt is such an extraordinary country, the electorate is so inexperienced, and corruption plays such an important part in the elections that it would be dangerous to make any forecast, particularly at this early date, on the way the elections may go. One thing, however, is certain: the Wafd organisation will on this occasion be somewhat handicapped by the strong measures which the Government is taking to prevent any incursion into the provinces during the period of elections of the students who last autumn contributed so largely to the success of the Wafd.

Cocaine.

The letter on the subject of cocaine addressed by Russel Pasha, the Commandant, Cairo City Police, to the local Press is a timely warning to the public of the very grave danger with which the country is menaced by the almost daily extension of the cocaine-taking habit.

The manner in which this vice has spread since the War is appalling. It has become a far more serious national menace than "Hashish," which in pre-War days was considered to be such a danger that a special agreement was made with Greece, whence the main import came, whereby in return for the prohibition of export to Egypt by the Hellenic Government, Egypt undertook not to grow tobacco, so as not to compete with the imports of leaf from Greek Macedonia.

Evidence increases daily of the ravages which cocaine is making, and all classes of the community are becoming affected. An alarming feature is that the present wave of cocaine-doping is not confining itself to the towns, but is spreading amongst the fellahin, and so is threatening the national life at its very root; while amongst prominent *habitués* now are the taxi-drivers, who often can be seen openly sniffing it while waiting for

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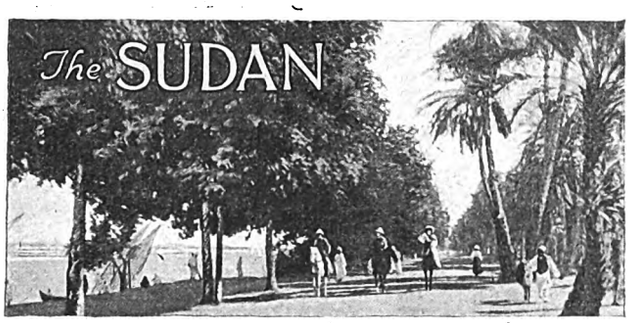
fares, and have latterly caused several scares and serious accidents in the main streets by their mad antics.

There is every reason to believe that the main supplies come from Germany. A very sharp watch is kept at the various Egyptian ports, but although the Customs authorities have made repeated hauls, the import still goes on, mainly because it is so easily concealed and the profits are so enormous. Try as they will, the police have so far been powerless to stop the traffic. It cannot be said that the existing legislation affords them any assistance, for, after all, a law which fixes the maximum penalty for each offence at £E1, or seven days' imprisonment, is not likely to act as a deterrent in the pursuit of a trade which daily brings in several hundred pounds to the offender.

As Russel Pasha rightly remarks, without appropriate laws it is quite impossible to combat this scourge, and it is astonishing that so far the hands of the police have not been strengthened in this respect, particularly when the Commandant affirms that with proper legislation he could stamp out three-quarters of this traffic in a year. The main obstacle to fresh legislation seems to have been the capitulations, which make it difficult to introduce laws or change existing ones affecting foreigners without the unanimous consent of the fifteen Capitulatory Powers. There should, however, in this instance, be no opposition on the part of the latter to special legislation; indeed, they should render every assistance, for their own colonies in Egypt are as much threatened by the spreading of this pernicious vice as are the inhabitants of the country themselves. Russel Pasha's efforts are deserving of the warmest support; and it is sincerely to be hoped that he will no longer be denied the legislative assistance he so badly needs, that the Egyptian Government will provide whatever extra staff and funds may be necessary to ensure an efficient control, and above all that the public will show its appreciation of what is being done to protect it against this insidious vice, by lending its co-operation on every available occasion.



Khartoum, December 21.

The Political Situation.

Although during the early portion of the period under review the native inhabitants of the three towns, Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman, were still in the throes of a great political excitement following the mutiny of certain Sudanese soldiery, at the time of writing they have calmed down to very nearly normal, and the situation at the moment may be termed "easy."

With the exception of a minor number of Egyptian Army details who keep arriving from out-stations, all Egyptian troops have been evacuated to Egypt.

It was most unfortunate, however, that the Government had not received earlier information regarding the activities of the Egyptians, particularly of Rifaat Pasha, Commandant of Artillery, and his officer associates in instigating the Sudanese to revolt against the British Administration and afterwards leaving them to their fate. Had this been possible prior to the departure of the Egyptian Army from the Sudan, there would have been a further court martial, and most probably the extreme penalty would have been paid by a number of them. As things are, the originators and actual culprits of the mutiny have left the country untouched, whilst of the puppets, the Sudanese officers, three have been shot, one killed in action, and one sentenced to servitude for the best part of his life.

The natives have not been slow to recognise this, and their feelings towards their co-religionists have already undergone a subtle change. Had the instigators been shot at the same time as the Sudanese, then the prestige of British Administration would have risen to the heights at the expense and degradation of the Egyptians. Even with the knowledge of such intrigues by representatives of the Egyptian nation and the activities of the British in forcing them out of the country, the curious fact remains that the Egyptian flag flies from the masthead on an equality with the British, and this is a feature the native cannot understand; nor does there appear any chance of the green flag ever being hauled down.

The majority of European residents in the Sudan are of the opinion that the British Note presented by Lord Allenby to Zaghloul Pasha did not, unfortunately, contain the most vital reprisal of all. Instead of informing Egypt that the Sudan Government may extend the Gezira cotton area to whatever limit it desired, the note should, it is claimed, have stated that the Egyptian flag should be sent back to Cairo with the evacuated troops, that the 1899 Convention ceased to exist, and that the Egyptian Government had no further interest in the country. Had this been done, the Nile waters, passing as they would through an independent country, could be utilised by much the same method as that described in the note.

However, there is no object to be attained by suggesting what should have been done. The one opportunity to have made the Sudan an independent country and the Sudanese a nation of their own has been missed for the time being; but there may, it is thought, arise an occasion when such a principle will be enforced.

Egyptian Civil Employees.

The local English paper, the *Sudan Herald*, has repeatedly urged that, unless the Egyptian civilian elements now employed in the main in Government offices are expelled from the country political

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agitation is certain to recur. It is understood that the Government has taken the matter in hand and intends to evacuate a number of individuals who have associated themselves with any political organisations during the last few months. Naturally, it would not be just to get rid of all of them, for a number of the older Egyptian officials have remained loyal to the Sudan Administration. The majority, however, are antagonistic to the British, and are dangerous elements to remain in the Sudan, and the more quickly they are sent out of the country, the earlier will the country settle down to normal living and work.

Activities of Political Prisoners.

A large number of political prisoners confined at the Khartoum North Central prison during the latter period of November refused to obey the instructions of their warders. They ran riot in the prison compound and destroyed everything that was possible of destruction. These prisoners were a mixture of Egyptians and Sudanese. The authorities took no action against them for some days, except to reinforce the police guards, who patrolled the top of the compound walls. The inactivity of the prison authorities in quelling the trouble was attributed, in popular belief, to the fact that the Egyptians had instigated this disturbance, and had the British taken drastic action against the prisoners they would have had a strong case to put forward on their own behalf that the British had killed men who had only expressed loyalty to the King of Egypt. Eventually, after the evacuation of the Egyptians, the prisoners were rounded up and placed inside the barbed wire enclosure situated within the British barracks. There they are learning the error of their ways.

Sir Geoffrey Archer.

The appointment of Sir Geoffrey Archer as the new Governor-General of the Sudan in succession to the late Sir Lee Stack has created a most favourable impression amongst all sections in the Sudan.

Sir Geoffrey, accompanied by Lady Archer, is now en route from Uganda via Rejaf to take up his new appointment, and is expected at Khartoum about January 7. It is generally hoped that with the appointment of a Colonial Office official the Sudan will eventually come under the Colonial Office for its administration.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 30.

M. Tsankoff's Voyage.

At the time of writing, M. Tsankoff is visiting Bucharest. He spent two days at Belgrade last week, and will return to Sofia on January 1.

His object in visiting Yugoslavia and Roumania is to enter into personal contact with the political chiefs, and to try to come to an understanding regarding different matters pending between the countries concerned.

In addition, it is surmised that the formation of a Balkan *bloc* against the Bolshevists has also a certain bearing on the Bulgarian Prime Minister's voyage. Two weeks ago, M. Marinkovitch, the ex-Yugoslavian Minister for Foreign Affairs, paid an unofficial visit to Sofia, and it was common gossip that his object was to find out the views of the Bulgarian Government regarding the Bolshevist menace. At Belgrade M. Tsankoff is reported to have been satisfactorily received, but there are not wanting voices who declare that the real aim of the Paschitch Administration is not to secure Bulgarian support against the Bolshevists, but to strengthen its own position *vis-à-vis* the Croats and Slovenes. Certainly the *rapprochement* —for it deserves that epithet—between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria has come rather too quickly to convince one of its genuineness. No one, except a few Bulgarian political *emigrés* living in Yugoslavia, can but desire that the *rapprochement* become an accomplished fact, but the circumstances in which it has been begun entitle the cautious and impartial observer to entertain serious doubts on its reality.

With Roumania, there would seem to be no valid reason why a complete and sincere *rapprochement* should not take place. The two countries have hardly any conflicting interests, although the situation of Bulgarians inhabiting the Dobruja is a point in dispute. These wretched people stand to lose practically their all, as their properties have been sequestrated. It remains to be seen whether M. Tsankoff will succeed in coming to some arrangement with the Roumanian Government regarding this matter. As the Roumanians declare that their schools and churches in Bulgaria have been shut, perhaps some *quid pro quo* will be found possible.

In any case, it is to be hoped that the voyage of M. Tsankoff will bear a certain fruit. Relations between the different Balkan States have for too long been animated with hostility. Now there may be a new era dawning, but it seems more probable that internal politics are at the back of the matter.

The Geneva Protocol.

Yesterday the Sobranye approved of the Bulgarian-Greek Minority Protocol signed at Geneva last September. The only party which opposed the measure was the Communist. Meanwhile, Bulgaria is watching with great interest the Greek attitude towards this matter. Day by day the opposition to the ratification thereof seems to be growing, and the fact that M. Venizelos has himself advised his political friends to oppose the Protocol is a most significant step. For it was M. Venizelos who in 1919 drew up the Convention regarding emigration between Greece and Bulgaria, and had it affixed to the Neuilly Treaty, which Bulgaria had to sign whether she liked it or not. Now that a Protocol, which admits the presence of Bulgarian Minorities in Greece, has been signed, M. Venizelos, besides other Greek statesmen, are beginning to grow nervous. They are apprehensive of the consequences that may take place when the Bulgarian Minorities are allowed to have freedom of speech and religion. On the other hand, Bulgaria has immediately signed and ratified a Protocol which places on her the responsibility and obligation of ensuring complete freedom to Greek Minorities in Bulgaria. The two Dele-

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gates of the League of Nations, Colonel Corfe and Commandant De Roover, are leaving Sofia early next year to instal themselves in Athens, where they may be expected to have a difficult task in persuading the Greek Government to agree to the Protocol. The Cabinet in power at the present moment will agree to ratification, as its own delegate, M. Politis, signed the Protocol on behalf of Greece. But if there is a change in Government, which seems not impossible, then there is no saying what will happen, and Bulgaria, which has so far studiously refrained from commenting on the Greek attitude, will have every right to ask the League of Nations to intervene.

The Murder of Peter Chauleff.

The Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation has once again shown that it never forgives. M. Chauleff, formerly one of the committee of three which controlled the organisation, was expelled earlier in the year on account of his friendliness with the Bolshevists. He was accused of receiving various sums of money from various Bolshevist officials, notably the Soviet Embassy in Rome, and when Todor Alexandroff (the former chief, who was himself murdered in Macedonia four months ago) met Chauleff in Vienna, he made him an offer, saying: "Return the money you have received, go abroad, and retire from all political activities. If you do this, we shall leave you alone. Otherwise, you will be killed." Chauleff seems to have chosen the latter alternative, as on December 23, whilst drinking in a Milan bar, he was shot at and instantaneously killed. His assailant, a young Macedonian named Dimitri Stephanoff, gave himself up to the police, although it is reported that he first tried to commit suicide.

It seems that Stephanoff had for long been watching for a favourable occasion to kill Chauleff, but the latter took extensive precautions, as he knew his life was in danger.

General News.

To-day M. Georges Picot, who has been the French Diplomatic Representative in Sofia for the last five years, gives up his post and proceeds to Paris. His successor, M. Darde, is expected to arrive from Munich early in the New Year.

The English-Speaking League gave a highly successful Christmas party in the Journalists' Club on December 29.

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GREECE.

Athens, December 29.

A New "Republicanism."

Anti-Venizelist Republicanism is the latest "creation" in Greek internal politics. How far are those anti-Venizelists who to-day appear to favour the Republican régime sincere? Have they, or have they not, something up their sleeves? A decided affirmative is the answer of those who claim to understand the tactics of the partisans of the late King Constantine. They feign, it is said, to recognise the new order of things, while, on the other hand, they are carrying on a veiled propaganda against the régime which is the outcome of the Plastiras revolution. The Royalists have a hard nut to crack, for the masses are thoroughly tired of party politics, and they are asking themselves whether there is anything to be gained by another change of régime. The Royalist leaders, however, are determined to stick to their guns, and their every move is calculated to discredit the powers that be in this country to-day, and to demonstrate to the people that no good can ever come of a Government owing its existence to the Plastiras revolution, which, they allege, was the sequel of M. Venizelos' policy. The *leit motif* of the Royalist Press has been for some time past that the Anatolian *débâcle* was due to the cowardice of Plastiras and of his lieutenants on the battlefield.

The Royalists and Plastiras.

The Royalist Press is constantly levelling disparaging remarks at General Plastiras. Recently the evening journal *Apogevmatini* accused General Couroussopoulos, who took an active part in the Plastiras revolution, of cowardice, and held him in a large measure responsible for the Anatolian *débâcle*. The General brought an action for slander against the *Apogevmatini*, and the trial afforded the Royalists an opportunity to give vent to their feelings against General Plastiras and his partisans. From the outset the trial took a political character, and the criminal court in which it was held was the scene of so grave incidents that the trial was eventually adjourned *sine die*. The Prime Minister, replying to a question in the National Assembly, took the presiding judge rather severely to task for having tolerated political demonstrations in court, and an inquiry is in progress to establish responsibilities.

The Royalist leaders are very active, but it is doubtful whether they will find any support amongst the people, who are thirsting for a quiet life.

The Trial of General Loufas.

General Loufas, the leader of a conspiracy to dissolve the National Assembly, and a handful of officers who followed him have just been tried by court-martial. The trial aroused little interest in spite of the importance which the Press tried to give it. General Loufas is the officer who was sent to Corfu by the revolutionary leaders to arrest Prince Andrew, and who placed him under arrest and brought him to Athens for trial by court-martial. In those days General Loufas appeared to be one of the pillars of the Plastiras revolution. In the course of his trial, however, he inferred that the leaders of the revolution were impelled less by patriotism than by political motives, and that neither General Plastiras nor General Gonatas was a soldier of any real value. General Loufas went on to say that both General Pangalos and General Kondilis, political adversaries to-day, are intriguing with a view to the establishment of a dictatorship in the country, and that each is aspir-

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ing to become dictator. General Loufas said *in toto* that the internal situation had become unbearable, and that no effort is made in the National Assembly to improve it—the party leaders' sole preoccupation being to satisfy their personal ambitions.

General Loufas found fault with everybody and everything, and he evidently would have had much to say about General Kondilis, Minister of the Interior, had not the President of the Court warned him against taking members of the Cabinet to task. In the course of his defence, however, General Loufas spoke of reports which had reached him to the effect that General Kondilis had organised a Fascist movement, and that he intended to establish a dictatorship if the present Government lost the National Assembly's confidence. He (General Loufas) had organised a movement to counteract the schemes of General Kondilis, but as soon as he realised that the Kondilis movement was not to be realised, he also set his plans aside. General Loufas was sentenced to two and a-half years' imprisonment, and his followers to minor penalties. Counsel for the defence have demanded the revision of the case. It is not yet known whether their demand will be complied with. A decision must be reached within forty days of the passing of the judgment.

The Œcumenical Patriarch.

The question of the assimilation of the newly-elected Œcumenical Patriarch to an "exchangeable," and of his deportation from Constantinople, is greatly preoccupying the Greek Government, which is very closely following the doings of Angora in connection with the Phanar Patriarchate. The point of view of the Turkish Government may be summarised as follows:—

(1) Mgr. Constantine is a native of Triglia, and, in view of the fact that he came to Constantinople after 1918, he comes under the category of "exchangeables."

(2) According to the Lausanne Treaty, the seat of the Œcumenical Patriarchate is, as before the War, in Constantinople, but the agreement reached on the subject does not apply to the personnel of the Patriarchate. It is obvious that prelates who come under the category of "exchangeables" are not eligible to the Patriarchal Throne.

The Greek point of view is, briefly, as follows:—

By the term Œcumenical Patriarchate is not implied the Patriarchal Palace, but the traditional Patriarchal organisation which is composed of human beings (the Patriarch, the Holy Synod, and so on), who, in virtue of the Lausanne Treaty, are at liberty to reside in Constantinople.

The headquarters of Greek Metropolitans is the Phanar Patriarchate, on which they depend, and where they exercise the most important of their privileges—e.g., the election of the supreme chief of Orthodox Christians. The Turkish Government has from all times recognised the Phanar Patriarchate as the legal residence of the Metropolitans. So much so that, whenever, for one reason or another, a Metropolitan became undesirable in his diocese, he was ordered by the Turkish Government to return to the Phanar.

It now remains with the Mixed Commission for the exchange of Greco-Turkish populations to decide whether Mgr. Constantine can be considered as an *établi* or not. It also remains to be seen whether Angora will accept the ruling of the Commission if it is favourable to the Greek point of view.

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IRAQ.

Baghdad, December 21.

The Cabinet's Manifesto.

In order to induce the electors to vote for candidates who are the partisans of the present Government, the Cabinet has just issued a special statement of its policy, both foreign and domestic. So comprehensive is this manifesto that it is difficult to conceive of any elector escaping the Cabinet's net. It opens in the spirit of the times with an assurance of the Government's eagerness to "maintain all the rights the country has won," and to attain as quickly as possible the goal of complete independence. These aims, says the proclamation, can be realised in co-operation with Iraq's ally—but the Treaty must be amended in accordance with the request made by the Constituent Assembly at the time of its ratification. Further, it is hoped that "only light burdens" will be laid on Iraq.

Turning to home affairs, the Government takes efficiency and economy as its watchwords, particularly with a view to improvement of the Civil Service. Iraq is to take its stand as a Muslim country, and religious beliefs and traditions are to be upheld. Social and moral evils such as gambling and drunkenness are to be put down with a heavy hand, and (somewhat unexpectedly) the Government is anxious to encourage properly organised athletic sports. Public health is considered of the first importance, and the need for better housing conditions is recognised. The manifesto goes on to declare the Government's wish to introduce a special coinage for Iraq, to establish a national bank in the near future, and to link up the districts by railways as soon as possible. Local industry is to be encouraged, particular attention being paid to the careful use of Government funds; the land tax is to be revised, and efforts made to attract foreign capital into Iraq. With regard to education, the Government's reforming zeal includes primary education for every child, the institution of schools of medicine and agriculture, and the improvement of the existing technical school. A general revision of the laws of the land is also promised. Truly an ambitious and optimistic programme! Lastly, with regard to agriculture, a far-reaching scheme of river control, involving the extension of areas under cotton, silk, and flax, is outlined, besides a suggestion of reclaiming the marshland and of establishing an agricultural bank. Such a manifesto seems to call for only one remark: it is an amazing spread of canvas for a rudderless ship.

Financial Position.

A short time ago a delegation was sent from Iraq to Constantinople to discuss the question of the Ottoman Public Debt. The return of the delegates and their announcement of the large proportion of the debt to be borne by Iraq have awakened the Government to a realisation of the seriousness of the country's financial position. Iraq is appealing against the proportion she is required to pay, on the ground that as a much neglected outpost of the Turkish empire she derived little benefit from the loans. The King, to assist in balancing a budget which shows a deficiency of over thirty lakhs of rupees, has agreed to give up half his very liberal civil list.

Mosul.

The High Commissioner has just returned from a visit to Mosul, where, at an official reception given

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by the Mutasarrif, he met a number of the leading inhabitants. With reference to the forthcoming visit of the Commissioners appointed by the League of Nations for the settlement of Iraq's northern frontier, Sir Henry made some important statements. The decision of the Commission, so vitally interesting to Iraq, would probably not be made known until after their return to Europe. The Commissioners—Colonel de Paulis (Belgium), Count Paul Teleki (Hungary), and M. af Wirsen (Sweden)—are expected to reach Baghdad on December 28, and will probably make their headquarters at Mosul, to which town all the necessary house furniture is being sent from Baghdad; for outside the capital Iraq is still very deficient in the amenities of European life.

New Ministry.

A Foreign Ministry has now been established in Iraq. The Prime Minister, Yassin Pasha al Hashimi, will act as Foreign Minister. It is expected that the portfolio of Defence, at present also held by Yassin Pasha, will be handed over to Jaafer Pasha al Askeri, a former Prime Minister.

The Queen of Iraq.

Her Majesty the Queen of Iraq arrived in Baghdad from Jeddah on December 17, having travelled from Abadan in the steamer Ihsan, which was placed at her disposal by the Mesopotamian Persian Corporation, Limited. The ship was met some distance from the city by a party including the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister's brother, the Mutasarrif, and the Lord Mayor of Baghdad. The absence of King Faisal was due to his visit to the Mosul vilayet in connection with the delimitation of the frontier.

Fire at Basrah.

A serious fire occurred at Basrah on December 14, a populous area near the dockyard being completely wiped out. The fire brigade was fortunately able to save the rest of the town by preventing the spreading of the flames, but could do nothing for the four acres or so in which the fire, aided by a strong wind, was raging. The whole area was devastated in the short space of one hour, about a thousand people losing their homes and all they had. Until about two years ago a very efficient and up-to-date fire brigade, under a British officer, had its station in Ashar (the quarter in which the fire occurred); but when this was offered to the Municipality at a very reasonable figure it was refused, and the town was left relying solely on the British fire brigade at Magil, six miles away. With Sunday's object-lesson before them, the municipal authorities are regretting their misplaced economy.

Relations with Persia.

A special mission is being sent to Teheran to discuss certain questions in connection with this country's relations with Persia. It is being headed by Ibrahim Effendi al Haidari, Minister of Auqaf, and is expected to leave Baghdad as soon as the Sardar Sipah has returned to Teheran after his visit to Arabistan. Abdul Hassan Chalabi, ex-Minister of Education, and Jowdat Beg and Saiyid Mohammad Bahr, both of the King's Household, make up the mission.

Riza Khan is now in Iraq, visiting the Shiah holy places—Nejef, Kerbela, Kadhimain, and Samarrah. It is hoped that the Sardar Sipah's visit will result in the reopening of the Persian pilgrim traffic.

British Cemeteries.

The Imperial War Graves Commission requested the Iraq Government, through the High Commissioner, to grant in perpetuity all lands in Iraq used as British War Cemeteries. The Cabinet decided that such sites as were State property could be so granted, but that privately owned sites must be purchased by the Commission. An announcement in the local Press states that the State-owned sites have now been handed over. It is to be regretted that in this small matter the Iraq Government, unlike other Governments in the same circumstances, was so ungenerous as to neglect a very fitting opportunity of paying a tribute to the British dead.

General.

General Sir Sefton Brancker, K.C.B., who is travelling by air to India in connection with the proposed airship route, arrived in Baghdad on December 21, after a flight of four and a-half days from Constantinople. It is not expected that the route will pass over Iraq, Ismalia, in Egypt, being the only suggested halting-place, for in the early stages of airship development it is considered best to fly as much as possible over sea rather than over land, in order to have the benefit of the more equable temperatures. Baghdad will, therefore, not be a station on the route, but will be brought within three days of London by linking up with Egypt when the regular mail service is inaugurated. General Brancker was received with the greatest hospitality by the Turkish officers at Konia, and also by the French garrisons at Aleppo and Rakka. His aeroplane is a De Havilland Fifty, with a 230-h.p. Siddeley-Puma engine, and has given no trouble during the flight.

A special Christmas mail was arranged by the Overland Service, by which letters and parcels posted on December 16 were due to reach England in time for delivery on Christmas Day. Greetings from the British community in Baghdad to their friends at home will thus be only nine days in transit—provided, of course, that such acts of God as the flooding of the Euphrates near Ramadi, and the storm at sea which delayed the P. and O. mail ship and consequently the Overland Mail of last week, do not intervene.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes, who recently passed through Baghdad on her way to take part in the production of a cinema film in the Persian Gulf, is suspected (according to the *Baghdad Times*) of concealing beneath this innocent enterprise a plan to visit Ibn Saoud, in Central Arabia, and there to meet Mr. St. John Philby. Such a project would not be looked upon with any great favour by the authorities at home, and Mrs. Rosita Forbes has, therefore, been "requested" to go to Bushire, on the other side of the Gulf, instead of to Bahrain, her professed objective.

The *Baghdad Times* points out an interesting contrast between the attitudes of Iraq and Turkey towards the problem of securing foreign capital for the development of natural resources. The new Government in Turkey is doing its utmost to promote commerce by all possible means, and for that reason has proclaimed its anxious wish to be on the most friendly terms with Great Britain, the nation which can best help on its commercial development. Iraq, on the other hand, seems unable to rise above the distrustful and haggling spirit of petty commerce, and, in spite of her dire need of foreign capital, still bargains suspiciously over any financial proposition, in a way which is far more likely to repel than to attract the outside capitalist.

The grant of "passage pay" to members of the superior Civil Services in India now covers the cost of passages from "port to port." Formerly the grant applied only to passages between Bombay and London. The new modification of the concession of this grant of "passage pay" enables officials to travel overland to or from Marseilles if they wish.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 8, 1925 (New Style).
December 26, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada II., 12, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebeth 12, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Countess of Wemyss left London on December 31 for India.

Lord and Lady Swaythling will leave by the Kaisar-i-Hind for India on January 15.

The Earl and Countess of Dudley left England last week for India on a four months' tour.

M. Yovanovitch, Yugoslav Consul-General in London, arrived in Belgrade last week on a special mission.

Aziz Izzet Pasha, the Egyptian Minister in London, last week arrived at Zurich, where he will stay for two months.

Sir Felix and Miss Evelyn Schuster left London last Thursday for India, and will be away for about three months.

M. Marco Beza, Consul-General for Roumania, and Mme. Beza left London on January 2 for the South of France.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation in London, has recovered from his operation, and has resumed his duties.

Vedil Bey, Secretary at the Turkish Legation, who has recently arrived in London, has taken up his residence at 7, Queen's Gardens, Hyde Park.

General M. Yoximovitch and Captain Kovatchovitch arrived in London on January 2 from Belgrade on business concerning Yugoslavia's war debts.

Dr. Georges V. Todorovitch, Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, is now residing at 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The Earl and Countess of Plymouth and the Dowager Countess of Plymouth left London on December 31 for India, and will be away until after Easter.

The Roumanian Minister left London for Paris last week to attend the meeting of Allied Finance Ministers, which commenced on January 6. M. N. Misu is acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, and Mme. Stancioff arrived last week at Whilton Lodge, Rugby, from Sofia on a visit to Sir Alexander and Lady Muir.

The marriage arranged between Colonel Sydney F. Muspratt, C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., and Rosamonde, youngest daughter of Sir Edward Barry, Bt., of Ockwells Manor, Bray, will take place on Thursday, January 22, at St. Michael's, Bray, Berks.

Sir Joseph and Lady Tichborne were among the passengers by the P. and O. Bombay express which left London last Thursday to connect with the steamship Naldera at Marseilles. Viscount and Viscountess Portman and Lord and Lady Cable embarked in the vessel at Marseilles.

Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee, the High Commissioner for India, and lately a member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General, arrived in London on January 3 from Bombay. He began his duties in London last Monday at the office of the High Commissioner, 42, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.

On December 27, at All Saints' Church, Moda, Constantinople, and previously at the British Consulate-General, the marriage was solemnised of John S. Collmann, elder son of the late Henry Gordon Wharry, M.R.C.S., and of Mrs. Wharry, 105, Cadogan Gardens, to Esmé, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Whittall, of Rosalind House, Moda.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

Among the honours which will be of special interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST may be included the following:—

KNIGHT.

Wasey Sterry, C.B.E., Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government.
William Foster, C.I.E., Historiographer, India Office.

K.C.M.G.

The Hon. Ronald Charles Lindsay, C.B., C.V.O., His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople.
Basil Shillito Cave, C.B., His Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers.

The following promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Sir S. Nettleton, Chief Justice, Bahamas, to Chief Justice, Cyprus.

Mr. B. Lewis, Deputy Chief Accountant, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kenya, to Chief Accountant, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Palestine.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1925.

THE EAST IN TRANSITION.

Prejudices die hard, and it is doubtful whether many people in Great Britain have appreciated and accepted the fact that the East of to-day is not the East of yesterday. Human nature in that part of the world may not have changed much; but the articulate few have absorbed Western ideas and are resolved to graft them—or those at least that appeal to them—as best they may on to local conditions. The wonderful transformation of Japan from a mediæval State of pronounced hermit tendencies to a first-class Power was effected in comparatively few years at the instigation of a small but powerful section of the Japanese people. Is it possible that the same process is now at work on a reduced scale in the Near and Middle East? The first efforts will be accompanied by many mistakes, for the Near Eastern peoples labour under a sense of reaction against the foreign supervision under which, in a greater or less degree, they have hitherto been. Close acquaintance with the foreigner has prompted them to exaggerate his personal shortcomings, while it has not detracted from the advantages that his civilisation holds out to them. They will, therefore, not readily subject themselves to that conscientious schooling and strict discipline which were the foundation of Japan's success. In the end, however, they will be compelled to learn from those whom they are trying to imitate: for the instinct which has made them dissatisfied with the old order will show them where the new fails, and will in time point the way to the only remedy. There can be no question as to the attitude that the West ought to adopt towards these strivings; in spite of imperfections, and in spite of crude manifestations of hostility, the desire for better things and every attempt to introduce the new order are to be encouraged. The world stands to gain in the long run, however unpleasant the transition stage may prove to those in closest contact with the peoples concerned. Because in the early stages of the new order the old blemishes are still much in evidence—*laisser faire*, procrastination, even corruption—it is no reason why the movement should stand condemned for all time. The more gradual the process of regeneration the more thorough it is likely to be, for it will give time for the new leaven to permeate more widely through the nation, instead of leaving the greater part of it entirely untouched by, or sullenly opposed to, the changes.

In view of her many points of contact with the East, Great Britain is naturally concerned to know how the new order in the different countries will affect her. For the moment the outlook is not flattering. Turkey has shown strong anti-British bias; Egypt has staged a very effective quarrel of her own seeking; and even Iraq allows the pettiest grievances to override the gratitude that ought to be felt towards the country responsible for her liberation from the Turkish yoke, and for setting her feet on the path of independence. Here again in the details, as with the new movement as a whole, in these Eastern lands, it is easy to miss seeing the wood on account of the trees. An angry sea vents far more fury on the wall or cliff that restrains it than on the shore where it is free to come and go. The peoples of the East have been in closer touch with the British than with any other nation, and in seeking to prove their ability to stand alone feel obliged to emphasise their determination to dispense with help or guidance from Great Britain. If our previous relations with the individual countries have been based on nothing more solid than the might of the stronger, and have been productive of nothing of permanent value in national development, then complete estrangement for the future has been deserved. On the other hand, if British character, British methods, and British institutions have been and are still called upon to play a useful part in the history of the world, we can afford to ignore passing ebullitions of spirit and to wait for a truer appreciation of what Great Britain has to offer the smaller nations. It is pointed out in many quarters in regard to Egypt that all political parties are strongly Nationalist, and therefore at heart hostile to the British. Consequently, we are told, whether the political complexion of the next Assembly be Zaghloulist or "moderate," the British Government will be confronted with an unfriendly country. This pessimism makes no allowance for the inevitable failure, sooner or later, of a purely negative policy. Egypt, under the guidance of Zaghloul Pasha, allowed herself to be persuaded that she could dictate to Great Britain as to what should constitute Egyptian independence. She has been forced to admit the effectiveness, in the last resort, of Great Britain's heavy hand, and there are signs that a far from negligible body of public opinion is now realising that it is in Egypt's interests to accept, and to make the best of, the British interpretation of what is practical in the way of independence. As soon as this view is accepted by a satisfactory majority of the nation, then, provided that Great Britain plays her part tactfully and allows Egyptian independence to cover all that can be legitimately claimed for it, anti-British feeling will begin to wither for want of something to feed upon. In its place will come the hundred and one matters on which political opinion in a country is apt to divide itself, and it will be possible to fan the flame of Anglophobia to any effect only when some action has been taken that unites all political parties in a single camp. It will be Britain's duty to avoid, if possible, such action.

Anti-British feeling in Turkey is a plant of far from luxuriant growth. It has already begun to droop, and at the first sign of any really genial warmth in the rays of British friendliness, will die down altogether. The reason for this state of affairs is to be found in the fact that the Turkish nation, in spite of its inability to understand Western, or, rather, British, mentality, is well served by a primitive instinct, which enables it to recognise on which side its bread is buttered, and which causes like to respond to like in the characteristics of the British and Turkish nations. When it is realised what the policy of making Greece the overlord of Turkish territory meant to the Turks, and that through the mouth of her chief spokesman Great Britain virtually accepted sole responsibility for that policy, there can be no occasion for wonder that Anglophobia has been virulent in Turkey. So great, however, have been the advantages accruing to the Turks from that wrong-headed policy, and so clear has it become that the policy was the aberration of one man rather than the settled resolve of the nation, that it is proving difficult to make

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a sudden outburst of temper proof against the interests of long standing which have in the past brought the two countries together. Great Britain, therefore, has only to make sure that she does not, by keeping the Turks waiting too long, drive them into the arms of others, and so miss the psychological moment for erasing the memories of the last few years, in order to pick up again, as far as Turkey is concerned, the threads of what is her true position in the East. Similarly, there is no reason why the Iraqis should not ultimately come to realise that they can help their country in other ways than by devoting all their time and energies to baiting Great Britain. It is feared that the entry of the Shiahs of Kerbela and Nejef into the political arena, from which they have hitherto kept aloof, must mean an intensification of the campaign against the British, but their purpose may equally well be to play a more prominent part in purely Iraqi affairs. They will certainly bring no pro-British influence to bear on the counsels of the country, yet they will find it increasingly difficult, as Iraq takes more and more upon herself responsibility for her own administration, to sustain before the public a case against Britain's watching brief. In a word, then, Great Britain has no need to be pessimistic as to the outlook in the Near and Middle East for 1925. If she remains true to her instincts, she will find herself still called upon to fill an important and honourable rôle in the development of these countries.

AFGHANISTAN AS IT IS.

By G. K. NARIMAN.

During the zenith of the Khilafat agitation in India, it was the cue of the prominent actors in the melodrama to depict all Islamic countries as perfectly civilised and even surpassing most Western countries. Nothing so ridiculous was said about any country as about Afghanistan. It had schools and colleges, a disciplined army; it had a perfect system of finance, administrative offices, roads, a system of perfected taxation, a contented, industrious, wealth-producing population, and so on. Unfortunately, some of the Continental Powers lent support to this extravaganza. In a sumptuously illustrated magazine, called *Islam France* (May, 1923), Afghanistan was portrayed as a modernised State which might have been carved out of Western Europe or America. The recent pronouncement of the French Minister at Calcutta has done something to counteract the delusion. In this connection M. Reymond Furon, Professor at the French College in Kabul, on his way back home, granted me an interview in Bombay. After two years' service he was returning to Paris a disappointed man. There were, according to him, two heavy obstacles to the progress of Afghanistan. First, the country was exceedingly poor and unproductive; and, secondly, the people were still in a mediæval condition. There were practically no sources of revenue. The Afghan Army used to be maintained by the subsidy which the British paid. Since its cessation the dislike of the British has grown in proportion to the increasingly straitened circumstances. At present the finances of Afghanistan are supplied by the treasures accumulated by the predecessors of the present Ameer and Russian succour, stated to be one million gold roubles. "When this is exhausted," said M. Furon, "like Persia, Turkey, and other Islamic countries, Afghanistan will have to go to the West for a loan or sink into insignificance."

"What about the Khost rebellion?" I inquired. M. Furon said the information sent out to India was misleading. The members of the great upheaval have not yet died out. There was no relying upon the information supplied by the Afghan Foreign Office. While all the bazaar was humming with the invasion of the Khostwals who had come perilously near the capital, the officials complaisantly told the European foreigners that no trouble was apprehended. Any way, they deserved credit for imperturbability. Or was it lack of imagination? It may also be want of an adequate sense of responsibility.

According to M. Furon, the French College had 350 students who had a great aptitude for acquiring languages. The German College had about 100. Despite their unpopularity, the language of the English was making more progress than any other Western tongue. The trouble between the Khostwals and the present Ameer was due to this, that while the latter is a modernised Moslem, after the model of the Turk, Khost represents the orthodox, and would have no law—civil or ecclesiastical—except that of the Koran.

The Italians are in an unhappy predicament, says M. Furon. There was a quarrel in which an Italian assaulted an Afghan, and on his refusal to go to the authorities when summoned, his house was besieged. He seems to have lost his nerve and fired across the street, hitting an innocent person. This created a hubbub; the relations of the victim demanded the Italian's blood. He is still under custody. It is difficult to say when the affair would end. The Italians, however, have left, except five or six persons. The name of the Italian under Afghan arrest is Pipperno.

The Mangals seem to have struck terror amongst the populace, and even the troops. They are not more than 10,000. But with their allies of the Suleman Khel they are a dread to the Afghan soldier, some of whom shed tears when ordered to march against them. As usual, continued M. Furon, Britain comes in for a considerable blame in this affair, too. Although the rifles possessed by the Mangals are of German make, it is hinted that they are provided by the British.

The relations with Teheran are amicable, and the bitterness between Sunni Kabul and the Shiahs of Persia has greatly diminished; for it is a mistake to suppose that Afghanistan is all Sunni. There is a considerable Shiah element in the country of the Ameer. The most important modern emblem of civilisation in Kabul is the French Citroen caterpillar, which performed the feat of reaching Meshed overland without vestige of a road, and hitherto covered only on horseback. "I was astonished to see," said M. Furon, "the Kabulis in their home. From the way in which their representative lives in pomp and magnificence in Paris, one would think that Afghanistan was flowing with milk and honey. For a matter of fact, it is a vast desert, void of trees and water, and by no means so exceedingly rich in unworked minerals. The arrogance, however, of the people goes to make up for much. They believe, for instance, that sovereignty of the Punjab is their own birthright, and their ambition would stop

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short of nothing but the harbour of Karachi. The Hindus are not ill-treated. The prejudices against the British increase in proportion to the calm sphinx-like courage displayed by the representative of that nation. By a suicidal ordinance all import of British clothes is prohibited. A few months ago the Persian Minister, clothed in an English suit, had his coat cut out by a pair of scissors by His Exalted Highness the Ameer. An equally ruinous tariff shuts out all European provision from entering into Afghanistan. Cheese, for instance, is taxed at 200 per cent." "Among the minerals for which I prospected," M. Furon went on, "I noticed considerable iron ore, some copper, gold, and lapis lazuli in large quantities. Rock salt is also found in some regions. The only minerals which can be worked in paying quantities are iron ore, iron, and lapis lazuli. The much-vaunted coal is insufficient in quantity and poor in quality. A minor source of income is sugar, which is a monopoly of the State. It is an article imported direct from Java, and sold at a profit to the people. The Ameer of Bokhara is still in Afghanistan, his country having been Bolshevised. The attitude of Kabul with regard to Russia is indefinably peculiar. While Afghanistan and its Ameer are attracted to Russia in the hope that they may make common cause with them as against Britain and procure them, perhaps, their Punjab and Karachi, the tenets of the Bolshevists are abhorrent both to the orthodox and, to a lesser degree, the modern Westernised Afghan. Kabul has a French wireless station and a Russian one. The British are allowed none." "I am not returning to Afghanistan," emphatically declared M. Furon. And he was energetically supported by his wife, who speaks English with fluency. "I do not think there will be a successor to M. Fouchet, the French Minister who recently left for France. With regard to archæological concessions, I am unable to state how the Germans have been excavating and conducting researches in Afghanistan, for France has a monopoly of it. M. Fouchet, the Buddhist authority, visited Bamiyan, and prepared a note on the two colossal statues of the Buddha, but the rest of the country has no promise. M. Fouchet is in Balkh with his wife. All the European colonies have their women, who live and travel unmolested. M. Furon heard regularly from home in France, but on the spot knew nothing of the German activities, and had not seen Neidemeyr's illustrated folio on "Afghanistan," and wondered how Herzfeld could conduct investigations of old ruins. The Afghan winter was not favourable to any travel, the snow often lying a yard deep.

America showed prudence in refusing to instal an ornamental agent at Kabul. France would only have now a *Chargé d'Affaires* at the French Legation. Unless Afghanistan received a fresh supply of gold from Russia, her representatives in European Courts, in M. Furon's opinion, must curtail social display or must be withdrawn.

M. Vintila Bratiano, Roumanian Minister of Finance, left Bucharest for Paris to take part in the conference of Allied Finance Ministers.

Sir Sefton Brancker left Karachi by boat on January 1 for Bombay, where he met the airship experts from London and discussed the site of a permanent air base in India.

Nearly 300 emigrants began the New Year and a new career by sailing for Canada from Southampton in the Cunard liner Antonia. Two large parties consisted entirely of Poles, Roumanians, and Yugo Slavs.

Acording to the *Pioneer*, of Allahabad, 200 persons have died of a mysterious disease which has appeared on the Perso-Afghan frontier, and which the local doctors are unable to diagnose. The symptoms are bleeding from the nose, mouth, eyes, and other parts of the body, which later turns yellow.

OBITUARY.

Sir William Emerson, who died on December 26 at Shanklin, aged 81, was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects from 1899 to 1902. At the age of twenty-one he went to India, where he built the Bombay markets, several churches, and other buildings. On his return home he designed for the Government of India the Allahabad University, carried out by the Royal Engineers, and also the Cathedral at Lucknow, the Bhounuggur Hospital, and a palace for the late Maharaja of Bhounuggur. In 1906 his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, laid the foundation stone of Sir William's Victoria Memorial Hall at Calcutta, and the Prince of Wales opened the building during his visit to Calcutta in 1921.

Mr. Francis G. Newton, the well-known archæological architect, and the director of the Egypt Exploration Society excavations at El-Amarna, in Egypt, died suddenly from sleepy sickness (*encephalitis lethargica*) at Assiut on December 29.

Mr. Newton had been engaged on archæological work for several years. He assisted Dr. Duncan Mackenzie in his excavations in Sardinia and for the Palestine Exploration Fund in Southern Palestine. In recent years he also assisted Sir Arthur Evans at Knossos, in Crete, and for two seasons was architect on the staff of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University Museum, Philadelphia, at Ur, in Southern Babylonia. After helping in the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund at El-Amarna, he was appointed last year director of the society's excavations in Egypt, and left two months ago for Egypt to carry on work.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Hussey-Walsh, late Egyptian Expeditionary Force, who died in London last Friday, after a long illness, at the age of 61, joined the Cheshire Regiment in 1884 from Sandhurst, and served in the Burmese War and the Chin Lushai Expedition. On the outbreak of the European War he raised and trained the 26th (3rd Tyneside Irish) Northumberland Fusiliers and the 2nd Garrison Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, for service abroad. In 1916 he was made Commandant of the Cairo Citadel, and in 1917-18 he served with the Western Frontier Force of Egypt, being mentioned in dispatches. From 1918-19 he was Base Commandant at Beyrout (graded A.A.G.), and from 1919-20 at Port Said. In 1920 he was appointed hon. secretary for the Levant of the Officers' Association (Lord Haig's Appeal), with headquarters in Cairo; in the following year £10,900 was collected in Egypt, the Sudan and Palestine. Colonel Hussey-Walsh received the Order of the Nile, the Crown of Italy, the Legion of Honour, and the French Médaille d'Honneur of the first class.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FIRST CENTURY.

"ORIENTAL FORERUNNERS OF BYZANTINE PAINTING." Oriental Institute Publications. Volume I. By James Henry Breasted. (U.S.A.: The University of Chicago Press, 4 dols., postage extra.)

This is the first publication of the University of Chicago Oriental Institute, and it promises well for the series. It is a full account of the discovery made by Captain M. C. Murphy in March, 1920, when a British detachment was in occupation of a strategically strong hillock on the banks of the Upper Euphrates, where there were some ruins of the origins of which no one knew anything. Our troops were then on the point of leaving this place to take up a better line further south. Col. Leachman had fortunately heard of Mr. Breasted's party being in the country, and rightly considered that something should be done about the curious old paintings which had so mysteriously shown themselves. Sir Arnold Wilson gave all possible facilities and Mr. Breasted and his party were able to make a dash which brought them to the spot just a day before it was to be evacuated. In that one day they did wonders. These are chronicled in this book. They cleared the Hall where the paintings were and its surroundings. They photographed the paintings in whole and in detail, and made a very careful examination of them, including some full notes on the colours, that it was possible to colour the photographic prints in facsimile. Not only this was done, but a later painting done in Roman times was discovered, though it had by then grown too dark to get it photographed. Everything was then packed away as carefully as possible, but, alas! not carefully enough to keep the curious and image-hating Bedouin entirely off. When, under French auspices (for the spot finally became part of the French mandated territory) M. Cumont, the ancient Belgian scholar, was enabled to revisit the site for further investigation, the paintings had been largely destroyed, so that Mr. Breasted's hurried record now represents what has already been lost after being safely preserved by the desert for some nineteen centuries.

The plates show the paintings as they were found, with their curious likeness to Byzantine paintings of some centuries later. The artist's name is known, and the names of the persons portrayed. Mr. Breasted has been able even to identify the site and to reconstruct its history, which is in itself a fascinating tale. Founded as a fortified town by a successor of Alexander the Great on the site of a very ancient Babylonian city, it fell into the hands of the Parthians, and was finally held for a short time by the Romans, after which it died. The townspeople seem to have held fast by their Hellenic tongue and civilisation long after the place became a remote oasis in the Barbarian wilderness. The many inscriptions on the pictures are in Greek, and most of the portraits bear Greek names. There are the materials for a great poem in the tale unfolded in the book. This tale, the accidental sort of way in which this Greek colony got itself set down here, the accidental way in which this work of art happened to escape destruction, the accidental way in which it was discovered, the circumstances in which its record was preserved, and finally its immediate partial destruction, seem to be "all of a piece."

The book is full of interest and of learning handled in the right kind of way. Photographs are numerous and useful. The actual records of the paintings are marvellous when the circumstances are considered. Finally, the book is thoroughly well produced.

C. S.-W.

THE CULT OF SELF-PERFECTION.

"YOGA AS PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION." By Surendranáth Dásgupta, Ph.D. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd., 1924. Price, 10s. 6d.)

Yoga may be defined as a graduated series of mental and physical exercises carried out with a view of achieving self-perfection. It was practised in India long before its principles were reduced to system by Patanjali, who probably flourished in the second century B.C. There are three types of Yoga. The highest concerns itself with transcendental philosophy and its ethical application; next in importance is that which aims at strengthening the human frame and warding off disease; and the third description prescribes prolonged meditation on certain mystical sounds. Dr. Dásgupta has not succeeded in rendering the highest form of Yoga intelligible to European students. He sacrifices clarity of expression to an effort at exactness, which must be futile because many ideas in Indian philosophy are too subtle for the ablest translator. His treatise begins by setting forth the metaphysical theories of Yoga, which deal with the eternal enigma of Mind *versus* Matter. The solutions offered by Plato and Aristotle, Descartes and Spinoza, are unconvincing; Kant imagined them as two unrelated worlds, and the distinction drawn by Yoga is nebulous in the extreme. It defends the reality of the external world against the assaults of idealistic Buddhists who maintain that all phenomena are the illusion of our imperfect senses; but its attempts to define Mind, Matter, Fate, and Freewill were foredoomed to failure.

Yoga has an ethical side which is intimately connected with the doctrine of Metempsychosis. It distinguishes the soul, *Purush*, from the intelligence, *Buddhi*, and holds that the Ego, or personality, results from injurious identity between them. Hence arise attachment to pleasure and repulsion from pain, with all the attendant emotions. Hence comes love of life, which is implanted in the human organism by the memory of death in previous existences. These are hindrances, *Klesas*, which involve us in the world's entanglements, and keep us far from our goal, which is freedom from servitude to earthly passions. They are also the source of virtuous and vicious actions—

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which in their turn produce, as the result of their fruition, birth, death, life, and experiences of pleasure and pain, and residues of the memory of these experiences. Again, every new life or birth is produced from the fructification of actions in a previous life; a man is made to perform actions good or bad by the Klesas which are rooted in him, and these actions, as a result of their fructification, produce another life and its experiences; and thus the cycle is continued.

From a theological standpoint the cult preached by Buddha is thinly veiled agnosticism; and rival systems of Hindu philosophy are frankly atheistic. Yoga, however, affirms the existence of a universal Soul, *Iswara*, who is omniscient, omnipotent, and all-pervading; who deals with each human being according to his deserts; but does not nullify the law of *Karma*, which makes future rebirths contingent on merit inherited or self-acquired. In the devout Yogin's eyes the worship of Iswara and devotion to his service are essential to achieving one-ness with him.

The ethical side of Yoga is not without value, and its attitude towards religion has much in common with Christian theology. It adumbrates the scientific doctrine of the Conservation of Energy; and its physical exercises deserve far more attention than they have received. Its incursion into the realm of transcendental speculation adds little to our knowledge of the Universe. Metaphysics has been likened to "the search in a dark room for a black cat which is not there"; these old Hindu philosophers wasted much time and brain-power on a hopeless quest.

F. H. S.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN WESTERN INDIA.

"THE FOLKLORE OF BOMBAY." By R. E. Enthoven. (London: Oxford University Press. 14s.)

Mr. Enthoven worthily maintains the scholarly traditions of the Indian Civil Service. Not content with giving us his invaluable "The Tribes and Castes of Bombay," he now presents us with a monumental book of 350 pages dealing with the folklore of the same Presidency.

The foundation of the book was a list of questions sent out to all primary schoolmasters in the Presidency by the late Mr. A. M. T. Jackson, of Mr. Enthoven's service. After the tragic assassination of this extraordinarily promising officer, Mr. Enthoven took over the materials thus collected. These he published in India some ten years ago. Further inquiries followed, with a view to the revision of completion of these notes, and the result is now before us.

A very interesting introduction is followed by a series of chapters dealing in detail with the collected notes on such subjects as Worship of Natural Objects, Tree and Snake Worship, Worship of Ancestors, etc., Spirit Possession, Toteism, Evil Eye and Magic, etc. Each chapter is suitably sub-divided, so that reference is made easy, while occasional notes usefully assist the reader. It would not be true to say that every chapter is equally good. For instance, that on totemism barely touches the fringe of its difficult subject. Most of them are, however, perfect mines of information, and are a revelation of the true religious tendencies of peoples supposed to be mainly orthodox Hindus, but in whose mind the ancient animism has very deep roots.

Reading in THE NEAR EAST a few weeks ago a long letter by the distinguished Bulgarian Civil Servant, Monsieur Stoyanoff, on the subject of the Anglo-French-Italian Inter-Allied Commission in that country, we could not help wishing that we had seen that it is believed in Bombay that "if a company of three start on a mission, the mission is sure to fail." We fancy that he and the Editor might take different views as to the trustworthiness of Bombay folklore as a guide! C. S. W.

AN ARMENIAN HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

"SAMOUEL." Par Raffi, Traduit de l'Arménien Moderne par Altiar et Kibarian. (Paris: Editions de la Vraie, France. 12frs. 50c. les 2 volumes.)

This is a sombre historical romance, written in the leisurely, old-fashioned style which spends a long time carefully introducing each character, and which explains much of the action through long soliloquies. The story tells how Samouël, son of Vahan, of the Royal house of Armenia, in the year 400, killed first his father and then his mother in order to save his country from the dominion and religion of the Persians. It is a sad picture of a little nation struggling for independence between the great powers of Byzantium and of Persia, and has as its central subject the question of whether Christianity or the religion of Persia was to be grafted on to the ancient Pagan beliefs of the mountain people. None of the characters ever become very real, and are more or less figureheads representing vices or virtues or the different parties of the State, but there is a certain grandeur about them standing up against a rugged but beautiful background. In his heavy, slow way the author does produce a vivid impression both of the Persians wading through blood to an attempted conquest and of the struggle of Samouël's naturally gentle spirit, torn between filial affection and strong patriotism.

J. B. AINSLIE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"All Sorts: A Literary Revue." By Rathmell Wilson. (London: S. Carlyle-Porter. 5s.)

"The Stabilisation of Europe." Lectures on the Harris Foundation, 1924. By Charles De Visscher. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. $2. London: Cambridge University Press.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Turkish Reparations.

Attention may be called to the official notices of the "Commission for the Assessment of Damage Suffered in Turkey," published on another page. Particulars are given of the categories of damage laid down by a convention between the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Japan in respect of which claims may be dealt with, and the decision of the Commission is announced as to the persons of British nationality who shall be deemed to have complied with Article 5 of the said Convention. It is now some time since the Commission was set up, and the announcements which may be taken as meaning that the preliminary work has now been finished, and that the Commission is about to begin business, will naturally be widely welcomed by the numerous people concerned who have had to wait long to receive satisfaction for their claims.

Sufficient Cotton.

Nothing has occurred to modify the favourable forecasts of the yield of cotton this season, and it is now estimated that the world's cotton crop will be over 23,300,000 bales. This would represent the largest yield for nine years, and it means that for the moment there is enough cotton for the world's restricted requirements, even if, as will evidently be the case, the present year sees a great expansion in the demand for cotton goods. The vital consideration for manufacturers is that they should be able to obtain cheap cotton, and they ought to be able to do this with such an exceptional crop. If high prices were to rule for cotton it would simply mean that the growing demand for cotton goods would be checked, for under present conditions foreign markets—most of them, that is—must have cheap goods or none at all.

The Outlook.

As to the prospects for next year, it is difficult to write with any confidence, for cotton is one of the most uncertain of crops, and the fact that this season the yield is abundant is no criterion that the opposite will not obtain for 1925-26. In short, it is still very far from certain that we shall not even now be faced with a serious shortage of cotton, with its inevitable sequel of high prices. The one certain thing is that the demand for cotton goods will steadily increase, and the more rapid the progress of the world towards the normal the greater will be the rate of the increase. It is essential for Lancashire that in the next few seasons there should be large cotton crops in the regions outside the Empire, for it will, unfortunately, be some little time yet before the production in the Empire will have reached the point at which it will assure Lancashire of adequate supplies if other crops are short. The ideal, of course, is self-sufficiency as far as the Empire is concerned, but to visualise that is to look far into the future.

Empire Cotton Growing.

In view of the great projects in train in the Sudan, it would perhaps be surprising if some people did not wonder whether it was worth while to undertake further great projects in other regions, on the ground that once the production of cotton has reached a certain level the tendency must be to depress prices, with the result that in some years it may not be a very remunerative crop. That view would be a highly erroneous one to take, for it loses sight of the all-important fact that the demand for cotton goods must always normally tend to increase, and it is essential that constantly increasing supplies of cotton should be available to meet the demand. Of course, as I have pointed out, cotton is a variable crop, and countries which depend on it, or indeed on any produce of the soil, must be prepared for occasional periods of depression; but it may be taken for granted that a country could not have a more useful crop to rely on, speaking generally, than cotton. And in this case there is, of course, the added incentive that we wish to be free from dependence on other sources of supply, and only by ceaseless development within the Empire will it be possible to bring this ideal within the practical stage.

Export Credits.

The question has recently been raised as to the extension of the export credits scheme to India, Ceylon, and other places in the East. There is no question that the need for the scheme in connection with the trade with these centres cannot be compared with the position in regard to countries with depressed currencies; but it is felt in commercial circles that the scheme could be of considerable assistance also in the Eastern trade.

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COMMISSION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE SUFFERED IN TURKEY.

By a Convention between the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan, signed in Paris on November 23, 1923, it was agreed to devote jointly to the reparation of the damage suffered by their nationals the sums in gold referred to in Article 58 of the Treaty of Lausanne, and by the same Convention the British Government agreed to devote to the same purpose the 5 per Cent. Turkish Treasury Bills (1911), of the nominal value of £846,100, which the British Treasury had purchased from the holders in 1914; and, by the same Convention, it was further agreed that a Commission should be set up within one month of the coming into force of the Treaty of Lausanne to assess damages suffered by the nationals of the Contracting Powers—*i.e.*, as follows:—

(a) Direct damage in respect of persons or property (other than that referred to in sub-section 2 of Article 6 of the Convention) suffered on territory which was Ottoman on the 1st August, 1914, or at sea between the 1st August, 1914, and 6th August, 1924, as the result of any act or negligence of the Turkish Government, including damage resulting from measures of requisition, sequestration or confiscation and, also, direct damage suffered on the same territory between the dates named as the result of any acts of war whatever party may have been the author of such acts:

(b) Direct damage caused by the fire of Smyrna, to the rights and property of the nationals of the Contracting Powers (but subject to the terms of para. (b) of sub-section 1 of Article 6 of the Convention);

(c) The damage referred to in paras. (a) and (b) suffered, on territory remaining Turkish, at the date of the coming into force of the Treaty of Lausanne, by Ottoman Companies in which the nationals of the Contracting Powers had a preponderating interest on the 1st August, 1914 (but subject to a deduction of the value of advantages of an economic character referred to in sub-section 1 of Article 6 of the Convention).

By the same Convention the Commission is precluded from dealing with claims in respect of the following categories of damage:—

a) Indirect damage, including deprivation of the use of property and loss of profits.

(b) Claims relating to amounts payable by the Hellenic Government in accordance with the Convention of the 24th July, 1923;

(c) The claims of concessionary companies, on account of the utilisation by the Turkish Government, of their property, or of their services, which are to be settled by the Turkish Government, as provided in the Protocols and Declarations forming part of the Turkish Peace Settlement.

This Commission was duly set up on the 6th August, 1924, and has established its headquarters in Paris, where it is now prepared to receive claims from nationals of the Contracting Powers (including persons protected by the Contracting Powers in cases where the patent of protection is of a date prior to the 1st August, 1914.)

Such claims, together with all documents and evidence in support thereof, should be sent to the Commission, addressed to the Delegate of the nationality concerned, at the headquarters of the Commission, 66, rue Boissière, Paris (XVIème), France, and should reach the delegate concerned not later than the 6th August, 1925 (the last day for the reception of claims provided by Article 5 of the Convention.)

66, rue Boissière,
Paris (XVIème, France).
December 10th, 1924.

(Signed) F. CLEMENT-SIMON, French Delegate and President.
H. E. GARLE, British Delegate.
DIEGO TRIPEPI, Italian Delegate.

COMMISSION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE SUFFERED IN TURKEY.

At a plenary session of this Commission held on December 10, 1924, it was decided that the following persons of British nationality, including persons under British protection whose patent of protection is of a date prior to August 1, 1914, should be deemed to have complied with Article 5 of the Convention between the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan, signed in Paris on November 23, 1923, *videlicet*:—

1. Those who have already made claims to and received an acknowledgment from the Reparation Claims Department of the Board of Trade, London, but not including those who have made claims to the Public Trustee and the Foreign Claims Office.

2. Those who have already made claims to the British Foreign Office, India Office, the Government of India or the Government of any British Dominion, Colony, Dependency or Mandated Territory, and have received an acknowledgment from the authority concerned.

3. Those who have already made claims to the French authorities in Syria and have received an acknowledgment from such authorities.

4. Those who have already made claims to the Office des Biens et Intérêts Privés, 146, Avenue Malakoff, Paris, and have received an acknowledgment thereof.

Persons who have already made claims to any of the authorities above mentioned may nevertheless make fresh claims if they desire to do so, or may add to, or remodel, or otherwise modify their existing claims, and in that event should signify their desire in that behalf to "The British Delegate, 66, rue Boissière, Paris (XVIème) France," stating to what authority their existing claim was made and the reference number allotted thereto.

Copies of the Convention of November 23, 1923, can be obtained from the British Embassy and Consulate in Paris, the British Embassies, Legations and Consulates in Central Europe and the Near East, or from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

(Signed) F. CLEMENT-SIMON, French Delegate, and President.
H. E. GARLE, British Delegate.
Paris, December 10, 1924. DIEGO TRIPEPI, Italian Delegate.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Demand for Dried Fruit.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Oilcakes.—The market has been steady. Linseed cake is unchanged at 270s., coconut cake is unaltered at 230s., while cottonseed cake is the same at 170s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand at the last prices. Tate's cubes are 37s. 9d., London granulated is 32s. 9d., while Lyle's granulated is 33s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been quite steady. White Mauritius spot has sold at 30s. 6d., white Java spot has been done at 30s. 6d., while Czech granulated has been done at 31s. 9d. Futures have been firm, January being 17s. 10½d., March 17s. 10½d., May 17s. 10½d., and August 18s.

Coffee.—The market has been very firm. Costa Rica is unchanged at 174s., East Indian is unaltered at 166s., Kenya is the same at 162s., while Santos remains at 128s.

Rice.—The market has remained quiet, but prices in some instances are a shade harder. Burma cleaned has been done at 18s. 3d. spot, while for the new crop 14s. 9d. is asked for January-February.

Maize.—The demand has been moderate. La Plata afloat has been done at 47s. 6d., while 48s. 9d. has been asked for January-February and 49s. 6d. for February-March.

Barley.—An inactive tendency has prevailed. Bessarabian has been done at 42s. 6d.

Currants.—There has been a great development of activity in this and other sections of the dried fruit market. A good deal of business has been done in currants, Vostizzas being in special demand, while Gulf and Panariti have also been in request.

Sultanas.—Transactions have been on a good scale. Cretans have been in particular request, and most of the business has been done in this quality, though Australians have also been a very good spot.

Figs.—The exceptional demand for this commodity, which has already been noted, has continued, and the fruit has been moving off very freely. As usual, Layers have been in special request, and prices have shown a tendency to harden.

Plums.—A steady business has been done, and the inquiry for this fruit seems to be broadening. The market shows a very firm tone.

Dates.—An excellent trade has again been done, and the market continues to develop a hardening tendency.

Almonds.—The market is very steady. Better supplies are now available, but even so they are inadequate to meet the demand, and the market shows an upward tendency.

Oranges.—The market is very active. Supplies are plentiful, but the fruit is being taken up readily, and it is evident that the demand is increasing.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been very firm, Calcutta being 4½d. up at 24s. 9d., while La Plata has been done at 23s., a rise of 3d. Rapeseed has also been very firm, Toria being 6d. up at 22s. 3d., while Ferozepore is unchanged at 21s. Cottonseed has been steady. Bombay is unchanged at 11s. 1¾d., Egyptian black is 3d. down at 13s. 9d., while Sakellaridis is unaltered at 13s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has again been very firm, and at 50s. spot and 49s. for December is 6d. up. Rape oil has been steady, with crude unchanged at 51s. 6d. and technical refined unaltered at 54s. 6d. Cotton oil has been firm. Refined common edible is unchanged at 52s. 6d., Egyptian crude is the same at 48s., while deodorised is unaltered at 54s. 6d.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Printing Paper, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of printing and writing paper, bristol-board, grey-board, and straw-board. January 13.

Locomotives.—The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for five passenger engines for the Luxor-Assuan Line. The gauge of this line is 3 ft. 6 in. January 13. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, tents, etc., required for the year 1925-1926. January 16.

Binding and Printing Material.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of binding and printing material. Price of conditions of contract: 50 mills. per copy. January 23.

Surgical Instruments, Appliances, and Sundries.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of surgical instruments, appliances, and sundries required for the central stores of the Department of Public Health for the period April 1, 1925, to March 31, 1926. January 27. (D.O.T.)

Paper and Stationery.—The Ministry of Finance, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of paper, stationery, and various other allied goods required by the Central Stationery Stores Department during the year 1925-6. February 2. (D.O.T.)

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two English tons of candles. February 3.

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Gîza (Mudirîya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping plant. February 15. (D.O.T.)

Printing Plates.—The Surveyor General of Egypt, Gîza (Mudirîya), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium lithographic printing plates required for 1925-1926. March 18.

India.

Impedance Bonds.—The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of impedance bonds for track circuiting. January 20.

Roumania.

Fire-extinguishing Pump.—The Roumanian Railways Administration invite tenders for the supply of fire-extinguishing pumps. January 26. (D.O.T.)

Weighing Machines.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of weighing machines. January 30. (D.O.T.)

Porcelain Insulators.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of porcelain insulators, sleeves, and plates. February 3. (D.O.T.)

Sulphate of Copper.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of sulphate of copper. (D.O.T.)

The Sudan.

Steel Tank.—The Inspector-General of Sudan Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of a mild steel tank, dimensions 10 × 10 × 2½ metres, to be used for water, with a small head between the two levels; the plates and the angle frames should be supplied drilled and cut according to the dimensions required, and ready to be erected in the sudds zone. January 15.

Turkey.

Barbed Wire.—The Commission des achats des chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of five tons of galvanised barbed wire. (D.O.T.)

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THE DRIED FRUIT MARKET IN 1924.

Disappointing Trade in Currants.

We give the following extracts from Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co.'s review of the dried fruit market since the opening of the season :—

Currants.

The closing days of the year provide a suitable opportunity for retrospection with regard to the chief features which have influenced markets during the past few months. Without question, the dominating factor has been the development of the principle of governmental control which was decided upon by the Greek legislature when it became evident that this year's crop promised to be of record dimensions.

The great success which attended the scheme originally introduced in 1905, and the experience of its practical working over a long period, no doubt encouraged the Government to an extension of the principle, and an Act was introduced imposing a tax on the 1924 crop of 600 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian lbs., the proceeds of the same being devoted to the purchase of fruit for distillery purposes, powers being granted for acquiring stocks up to 20,000 tons. The original restriction fulfilled its purpose in stabilising values, and the authorities were so convinced that a very serious position would have to be faced if remedial measures were not adopted, that they showed no hesitation in introducing the Act referred to, it must be acknowledged with beneficial results.

The new season opened on September 10 with the arrival of s.s. Darino, followed by Esneh and Phrygia, total about 2,000 tons during September. These met a good reception, sales taking place in cleaned Pyrgos 46s. 6d. to 48s., cleaned Patras 50s. to 54s., Gulf and Vostizza of attractive colour were readily saleable at 54s. to 56s. for the former and 60s. to 63s. for the latter. Fine shade dried 65s. to 70s. During October we were amply supplied with 5,000 tons, comprising a good selection, amongst which some excellent quality was noticeable. Although trade could not be described as active, considerable progress was possible. Owing to the scarcity of fine Vostizza, up to 72s. was paid in the early days, but with the advent of more liberal supplies, prices dropped towards the end of the month, sales being made in Vostizza at 58s. to 63s., shade dried 65s. to 70s., Gulf and Panariti 50s. to 56s., Zante 46s. to 48s., Pyrgos 44s. to 45s. Cleaned varieties were in more plentiful supply, and lower prices were accepted in order to make progress, cleaned Pyrgos 44s. 6d., better class cleaned 46s. to 50s.

Arrivals in November and December have been heavy, about 4,000 tons being warehoused. Although the fruit showed really attractive quality, it failed to interest buyers, and a most disappointing business was recorded. Concessions in price were continually offered in order to stimulate trade, but without success. The strength of the Greek market helped holders to maintain prices, and although we close the year with a slightly lower range of values, quotations have kept wonderfully firm considering the disappointing trade of the past two months. Vostizza was an exception, being pushed for sale, with the result that values declined 10s. per cwt. Closing quotations :—Pyrgos, 42s. ; Amalias, 43s. to 45s. ; Patras, 45s. to 48s. ; Zante, 45s. to 48s. ; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 53s. ; Vostizza, 56s. to 62s.

It has been extremely difficult for some time to understand exactly what has been influencing the markets. The general election is blamed in some quarters as a disturbing element. A point which should not be overlooked is the increasing quantities of dried fruit arriving during the summer months from Australia and South Africa entering into competition, and undoubtedly attracting some of the trade from the usual channels of previous years.

Australian.—The Ulysses and Fordsdale during May brought the first of the new crop. Quality was disappointing and compared very badly with that of last season in colour and condition. Opening prices were 60s. to 65s. Later arrivals in June showed no improvement in quality, and slightly lower prices were accepted—viz., 55s. to 58s. In July a still lower range of values was introduced to make progress, and business was possible at 46s. to 55s. During August, in sympathy with the advance in Greek fruit, the additional supplies realised 50s. to 54s. The fruit arriving in September showed a great falling off in condition, and some very low prices had to be accepted. Sales took place at 30s. for out of condition parcels, and 40s. to 45s. for inferior grades, best lots making up to 50s. These values were maintained until the close of the year.

Sultanas.

Smyrna.—The first shipment of new crop arrived per Gerano, the quality being most disappointing, and each arrival provided further confirmation of the almost entire absence of fine fruit. Some interest had been displayed in good average quality prior to shipment on the basis of 42s. c.i.f. August, 38s. 6d. to 39s. c.i.f. September, 37s. c.i.f. October. Upon samples being available sales were made of medium at 54s. to 58s., good 60s. to 65s., and fine 75s. to 85s. A steady upward movement was in progress during October in good qualities, this grade selling 60s. to 70s., and the scarcity of fine fruit being severely felt, up to 95s. was paid for oil-bleached Carabournu, but common and medium fruit remained difficult of sale at 52s. to 55s. Towards the end of November arrivals were more plentiful, and with a falling off in the demand prices for most grades had an easier tendency, and through the continued indifference of buyers, December witnessed a further decline in value all round. Closing quotations :—Fair, 52s. ; medium to good, 55s. to 60s. ; fine, 65s. to 85s.

Cretans benefited by the absence of fine Smyrna fruit and sold readily at 80s. to 95s., although at the close there have been forced sales, and some excellent quality changed hands at 65s. to 70s.

Greeks.—Very little fine fruit has been seen. Sales were made at 65s. to 75s. for coloury fruit, and 60s. to 62s. for ordinary quality.

Australian.—The first small lot of the new crop realised 65s. Further shipments in June were heavier, quality being very mixed as to size and colour, and therefore not appreciated by buyers. Business was difficult to negotiate at 52s. to 60s. Arrivals during July were unfortunately very dark in colour and unattractive, and in order to effect progress lower prices had to be accepted, ranging from 46s. to 50s., a few coloury lots being sold at 54s. to 60s. August witnessed fairly important sales: several steamers arrived, and with the temporary shortage of Smyrna fruit advantage was taken to make all progress possible, and a considerable quantity changed hands at 50s. to 54s., and continued selling steadily until the end of November, ordinary dark realising 45s. to 48s., a few 50s. to 52s , good coloury parcels 55s. to 60s.

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Cape.—The first new came to hand in March per Kildonan Castle and realised 50s. to 70s. for sulphured variety. This was followed by shipments of sun-dried, selling at 44s. to 48s. On the whole, the demand did not come up to expectations, and only at one period were sales readily effected, during the temporary scarcity of Smyrna sultanas—viz., sun-dried, 46s. to 50s.; sulphured, 52s. to 60s.

Afghans have been a disappointing sale, quality being unattractive, red variety opening 50s., yellow at 60s. Stocks carried over from the summer were eventually placed, red at 35s. to 37s., yellow at 42s to 50s.

Figs.

During July and August new crop genuine sold at 23s. 6d. to 24s. c.i.f. for September shipment. Arrivals of new crop skeletons met a ready sale, large boxes 80s. to 95s., small boxes 90s. to 100s., Locoums 115s. to 120s. A large quantity of genuine bags was disposed of afloat at 27s. c.i.f., while the opening sales were: In bags: good, 31s. 6d. to 34s.; genuine, 37s. to 40s. Steady progress was made with further supplies as they arrived, large boxes mostly in request at 65s. to 85s., small boxes slow 70s. to 85s., Locoums 115s. to 125s., pulled 48s. to 52s., bags good 31s. to 33s., genuine 35s.

It became apparent as November was drawing to a close that arrivals were overtaking consumption, and unless drastic steps were taken, large stocks would be carried over Christmas. In order to obviate this, holders decided on substantial concessions in price, and with a decline of 15s. per cwt. considerable progress was made, selling, large boxes, 47s. 6d. to 52s. 6d.; small boxes, 50s. to 60s.; while even as low as 40s. to 45s. was accepted for unattractive parcels. Locoums, being scarce, realised 65s. to 85s. Bags naturals, good 33s. 6d., genuine 35s. 6d., boxes pulled 42s. 6d. to 48s.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Haifa, December 6.—The grain market has been without notable fluctuations, and there has been no important change in prices. Towards the end of the week there was an improvement in the demand.

Jaffa, December 13.—Rain is badly required both for the crop and the orange groves. The prices obtained in the United Kingdom for oranges remain the same. They have averaged from 11s. to 15s.

Hamadan, November 29.—The sugar market has been more animated during the week as a result of the demand from the interior, and prices have risen about 3 per cent. On the other hand, quotations for manufactured goods have fallen in sympathy with the quotations of Baghdad.

The will of Mr. Harry Gay, of Antlers, Phyllis Avenue, Peacehaven, late Deputy Chief Auditor, Great Indian Peninsular Railway (net personalty £286), has been proved at £1,373.

Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., F.R.S., of 54, Onslow Square, S.W., and of 9, Victoria Street, S.W., Chief Engineer to the Egyptian Government during the building of the Assouan dam, a former president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, who died on November 17 last, aged 63 years, left estate of the gross value of £94,215.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Sir Henry P. Burt has joined the board of the Southern Punjab Railway Company.

The Alexandria and Ramleh Railway Company has declared a dividend of 4s. 6d. per share.

The annual general meeting of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien will be held at Cairo on January 16.

An order for 15,000 ploughs has been placed by the Turkish Board of Agriculture with a Leipzig firm.

It is reported that the application of the new Greek Customs tariff, which has been fixed for March 1, has been postponed.

The Czecho-Slovak State Air Service, Prague-Bratislava-Kosice, is to be extended to Uzhorod, the capital of Carpathian Ruthenia.

The *Pravda* states that the Soviet State Black Sea and Azov steamship service is opening a regular line between Odessa and Marseilles.

Professor E. Borel, of Switzerland, has been appointed arbitrator in the dispute arising out of the apportionment of the Turkish Debt.

The yield of wheat in Bulgaria for the past year was 10,333,000 quintals, that of maize 4,720,000 quintals, and that of barley 3,060,000 quintals.

A Cologne firm of contractors have received a contract for the construction of a railway line in Roumania, in the Carpathians, 70 kilometres in length.

The closing date for tenders for the contract for the improvement of the municipal water service in Damascus has been extended to January 30.

Indo-Burma (1920).—The production for November was 3,665 barrels, being 2,873 barrels from Yenanma field and 792 barrels from Padaukpin field.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended December 26 was:—Gemsah, 13 tons (previous week, 16 tons); Hurghada, 3,167 tons (against 3,271 tons).

An order has been received by the Bedford Engineering Company from the India Store Department for two electric goliath cranes, of 5 and 15 tons capacity, running on rails 60 ft. span.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that Steaua Romana Well No. 14 Runcu flowed 260 tons on December 26, 110 tons on the 27th, 160 tons on the 28th, and 120 tons on the 29th.

The foreign samples and foreign catalogues section of the Department of Overseas Trade has been removed from 7, Old Bailey, E.C., to the headquarters of the department at 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster.

Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway.—The preference stock transfer books will be closed from January 17 to 31, inclusive, for the preparation of interest warrants. No transfer will be received while the books are closed.

Among the twenty-one names chosen by Mr. Henry Ford from a list of 500 names of the world's greatest inventors, scientists, and philosophers to be engraved on the façade of his new office and laboratories at Dearborn is that of Dunlop.

It has been decided by the Roumanian Economic Council to raise the import tax on sugar from 10 to 30 gold centimes on the ground that Hungarian sugar is being dumped on the Roumanian market. The Minister of Commerce has fixed home prices as a safeguard for the consumers.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—The transfer books of the 4 per cent. debenture stock will be closed from January 17 to 31, inclusive, for the preparation of interest warrants payable to shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing. No transfer will be received while the books are closed.

The British Government is said to be seriously considering the desirability of pressing upon the Roumanian Government the need for the promulgation of a law laying down a definite standard of length and weight for cotton yarns imported into Roumania. Both manufacturers and merchants closely interested in this trade express their approval of such a suggestion, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has informed the Board of Trade that such a measure would prove beneficial to those having business relations with Roumania.

Mr. W. H. Himbury, head of the British Cotton Growing Association, is leaving for Iraq this week. For five years the Association has been interested in cotton development in Mesopotamia, and in the last two seasons excellent progress has been made. A crop of some 2,500 bales has been purchased this season, and the outlook for cotton-growing in Iraq is regarded as most promising. Cotton has also been received by the Association from Jerusalem, and it is possible that Mr. Himbury may devote some time to studying the prospects in that area.

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THE GREEK MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The Greek market for agricultural machinery has been unfavourably affected by the disturbed economic conditions prevailing for some time, (says an American Consular report).

Prior to September, 1922, Greek agriculture was chiefly in the hands of big landowners and practically the first efforts to introduce modern types of agricultural machinery were made by these landowners about 1911. During the period 1914 to 1923, a fairly important quantity of agricultural machinery was imported, despite war conditions, for use principally on the large farms. Since the arrival of the refugees, however, the Greek Government, in order to utilise them in agriculture, has begun to enforce a law which was passed in 1918, which provides that large farms and properties should be expropriated and distributed among small cultivators. In consequence, more than 100 large farms have already been distributed to peasants and refugees. This policy greatly restricts Greek imports of agricultural machinery, since the small farmers use hand tools and primitive types of implements.

The staple crops of Greece are tobacco, currants, raisins, olives, and figs, and none of these crops are well suited for the use of harvesting or weeding machinery. A large part of the cereal crops is grown on small terraces on hillsides, in olive orchards, or on very stony ground, and harvesting machinery cannot well be employed under such conditions. The savings which might be realised by using cultivators on tobacco and corn would probably be offset in most localities by the loss from planting the rows farther apart. In most sections also the growth of weeds during the summer, which is the dry season, does not offer a serious problem.

Formerly the United States was one of the largest sources for Greek imports of agricultural machinery. Most of the tractors which have been imported into Greece are of American make, and about three-fourths of the reapers and binders have been imported from the United States. More than 1,000 winnowing machines are in use in Greece, and most of them are of the French Marot type. About 150 large threshers are used, mostly of British manufacture.

Agricultural machinery is not manufactured to an important extent in Greece. There are five plants specialising in the manufacture of agricultural implements whose chief product is ploughs. One of the plants has been only recently organised. The ploughs produced by these plants are much cheaper than the cheapest types imported from Germany and are said to be equally serviceable. These plants have numerous sales branches, which also handle imported machinery. In addition to such plants, many small foundries, machine shops, and blacksmith shops produce various kinds of agricultural tools, such as spades, hoes, axes, and shovels. The products of the local plants are used mostly by the peasants, while the implements and tools employed by the larger farmers are principally imported.

The period 1914 to 1922 shows an increasing tendency in imports of agricultural machinery, owing principally to the increase in the Greek territories after the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913 and to the resulting cultivation of large new areas which, in the absence of men of military age, were cultivated by women, children, and old men. During this period imports were also stimulated by steps taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage the use of modern farm machinery. During 1922 and after imports showed a decreasing tendency.

The United States was the principal sufferer in this latter period, and in 1923 imports from that country were practically negligible, particularly as compared with 1921. Imports from Germany and Great Britain, which had been quite large in 1921 and 1922, decreased considerably in 1923, although less than did those from the United States. In 1921 imports of reapers from the United States amounted to 79,249 kilos, and from Great Britain 67,588 kilos, while in 1923 none were imported from the United States and 50,149 kilos were purchased from Great Britain.

Austria, France, Italy, and Hungary have also occupied important places in supplying Greece with agricultural machinery, but have not in any way compared with the three countries first mentioned, and imports from these countries in 1923 were in most cases negligible. At present there seems to be a preference for German-made agricultural machinery, influenced by lower prices, the facilities extended by German manufacturers, and the advertising carried on by them. Advertising is an important item in the sale of agricultural machinery in Greece, and in many cases local agents or representatives attend to the details and charge the manufacturer with all or a part of the expense.

The attitude of local importers and dealers regarding future prospects for the sale of agricultural machinery in Greece is somewhat pessimistic particularly as regards imports from the United States, in which cases credit terms granted are generally less favourable than those extended by European manufacturers. Another important factor in selling American machinery in Greece is the lack of a good spare-parts' service. Such a situation, of course, tends to increase sales resistance. The enforcement of the land laws will naturally restrict the use of heavy agricultural machinery, but as soon as there is an improvement in the present economic situation there should also be some improvement in the demand for agricultural implements.

The Greek Government's refusal of the demands of the strikers in coastal and island merchant ships and the ensuring of communications by employing non-union men has irritated the trade unions, and a general strike is considered imminent. The Government declares that it has taken steps to meet every eventuality.

According to Reuter's Bombay correspondent, the All-India Moslem League on December 31 passed resolutions urging the immediate withdrawal of the Bengal Ordinance, appointing a committee to formulate the Moslem demands in regard to their representation in the Legislatures and a proper share in the public services, and recommending Mussulmans to revive hand-spinning and hand-weaving, and to use indigenous cloth, to the exclusion of foreign cloth as far as possible.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 15/32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	262-264
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	300-305
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.42-24.46
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s.6d.
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.05-95.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	925-932
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s.6 1/16d.
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	865-880
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.66½-4.77⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87.80-88.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	157 5/8-158 5/8
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	112.50-113.10
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	645-655
Teheran	Krans to £	50	41¾
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	336-338,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.65-24.85

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

RAIN COTTON DEVELOPMENT IN THE SUDAN.

Position in Blue Nile Province.

To what extent can the output of rain-grown cotton be developed in the Sudan is one of the most important issues in connection with the extension of the cotton areas in that region. The position as regards the development of rain and flood American cotton, with special reference to the Blue Nile and surrounding provinces, is the subject of an informative article by Mr. A. J. C. Huddleston, O.B.E., Governor of the Blue Nile Province, in the current issue of the *Empire Cotton Growing Review*. He gives some interesting statistics regarding the Blue Nile Province, which show plainly the rapid development of the output of cotton. Thus for 1923-24 the bags of seed issued by the Government numbered 550, as compared with 70 for the previous year, and the total crop was estimated at 5,500 kantars as compared with 2,000, while for 1924-25 the bags of seed issued totalled 3,300. The writer continues :—

The figures are somewhat approximate, and on merchants' returns I should be justified in putting the 1923-24 figures higher, but as considerable quantities of mixed American and native cotton left the province, I have not thought it safe to take a higher figure for the American. As regards native cotton, I have no figures available for the 1921-22 and the 1922-23 seasons, but the export was certainly very small—in the 1923-24 season the Blue Nile Province production was certainly not less than 4,000 kantars, of which it is estimated that 3,150 were exported from the Sudan. This export trade in native cotton has sprung up in consequence of the trade in American cotton, and steps have now been taken to prohibit it, as there have been signs of attempts being made to pass off a mixture of American and native cotton as American.

The surrounding provinces have also been sending cotton into the Blue Nile, the total exports from that province during the 1923-24 season being 11,700 kantars of 315 lbs., giving 2,320 bales, which are believed to represent approximately (in kantars) :—Blue Nile Province, American, 5,000: Blue Nile Province, native, 3,150; Kassala Province, probably half American, half native, 1,200; Fung Province, 1,850; White Nile Province, entirely native, 500; total, 11,700.

The above are the facts as known at present, and though extremely satisfactory from a local point of view, it is obvious that a production of 1,000 bales of American cotton in one province is of no great general interest unless it is likely to lead to bigger results. If this production can be largely increased and extended into other parts of the Sudan, the methods by which these results have been obtained may be of general interest.

In the Blue Nile Province the rainfall is the limiting factor—the average rainfall at Wad Medani is 14 inches, and cotton requires at least 20 inches. It can, therefore, only be grown in natural depressions, known as "uguds," into which water naturally drains, or in small quantities near banks (terraces) constructed in places where there is some slight slope, so as to concentrate the water falling on the whole of a plot of land on to one particular portion of it. There are also certain possibilities of growing American cotton on land flooded by the river. The areas of all such classes of land are definitely limited, the great bulk of the province requiring irrigation to grow cotton. Once the seed issues reach 5,000 bags, I consider that the rate of increase will slow down very appreciably.

In the Fung and Kassala Provinces there is a much greater rainfall, which carries with it greater difficulties in dealing with weeds, and in Kassala there is a shortage of population. I have not had the same opportunities of studying White Nile conditions, but I believe they are similar to those in the Blue Nile, except that there are greater possibilities of flood cultivation on the river.

It is difficult to forecast ultimate possibilities, but I am convinced that if rain cotton cultivation is pushed as a consistent policy in all four provinces, the seed distribution will reach 10,000 bags within three years, which should enable 200,000 acres to be sown with American cotton. This should give a yield of not less than ½ kantar an acre, while in years of good rainfall 1 kantar may be reached. I look forward, therefore, to a production in the immediate future in these provinces of anything from 100,000 to 200,000 kantars, giving 20,000 to 40,000 bales. There are good prospects of still further expansion in these four provinces apart from probable development in other provinces.

It is worth while referring here to the effect of this increased cotton production on the food resources of the Sudan. I recently studied carefully the effect of the 1923-24 cotton production in the Blue Nile on the food position. The Blue Nile Province is the largest producer of dura of all the Sudan provinces. Dura is the staple food of the people, and in some years there is a considerable export trade in it, but if the rains are bad, local prices rise to a height that makes export impossible, unless there are large reserves in the country from previous years. In 1923 the rains were only moderate, and the crop was well below average, but large reserves were known to exist. The exact amount was, however, unknown, and there was some doubt as to whether any large export of dura from the country was desirable, in view of the possibility of bad rains in 1924. Actually, local prices kept at a level which made any large export impossible, and this was undoubtedly partly due to the extension of cotton-growing in the province. In fact, Blue Nile cultivators received approximately £E40,000 for their cotton. Of this it is estimated that £E10,000 was spent on luxuries that would not have been purchased but for the cotton, and £E30,000 was used for the purchase of necessities and the payment of taxes, the money for which would otherwise have been obtained by the sale of dura. This would have brought some 7,000 tons of additional dura into the markets, and would have forced dura prices down considerably. The actual exports from the province during the cotton season, including export to other provinces, amounted to 15,000 tons approximately. With lower prices and an extra 7,000 tons on the market,

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it is probable that an additional 2,000 tons would have had to be sold to enable cultivators to find their cash requirements. Some 9,000 tons, therefore, probably remain in the hands of the cultivators, which, but for cotton, would have come into the market, and, with lower prices, would certainly have been exported from the country. Against this must be put 3,000 tons, which is the maximum production of the land under cotton had it been sown with dura, and we are left with a figure of 6,000 tons as the net additional food reserves left in the country owing to the 1923-24 cotton crop.

As the cotton crop increases, the amount of money spent on luxuries will, of course, increase, and the greater spending capacity of the people will benefit trade generally and importers in particular. The export of dura will fall off, but there is so much land in the Blue Nile suitable for dura, and not for rain cotton, that I do not consider this cotton development will endanger the local food position in the Sudan. It will, on the contrary, tend to stabilise it, as more dura will be stored in years of good rains and more stored dura will be available in years of bad rains.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Variable.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 24, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been erratic, but again closed firm; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis \$1.25 up for January; \$1.50 up for March; \$1.20 up for May; \$1.35 up for July; \$0.15 up for November, 1925. Ashmouni: \$0.35 down for February; \$0.60 down for April; \$0.15 down for October, 1925. The week opened with very weak Sakel markets, due to profit-taking and a marked falling off in the demand from abroad, but towards the close bull speculators re-entered the market, and on account of its narrowness easily succeeded in making prices more than recover the ground lost earlier in the week. Despite the reduced demand tenderable, Sakel cotton keeps its heavy premiums over Futures, and this naturally strengthens the position of the latter, as it restricts hedging operations and makes heavy tenders extremely unlikely. As regards the Uppers contract, fluctuations were much less pronounced, and despite the continued good demand enjoyed by this variety from buyers abroad, prices receded somewhat. At December 3 tender krs.51,750 dockets were issued. These dockets were anticipated, and did not affect the market in the least. They were taken up by the leading export houses. The movement in the interior has been much less, and the arrivals in the factories have now dropped considerably. The total arrivals in Alexandria up to date are about 5¼ million kantars, and we estimate the remaining cotton up-country at about 2 million. Export figures keep very satisfactory indeed, the quantity of cotton shipped so far being fully equal to that of the same period last year. The week's receipts amount to 257,579 kantars, against exports 239,206 kantars; the stock stands at 2,051,816 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a quieter week at Minet el Bassal, and there has not been the same volume of business as for some weeks past, due, no doubt, to the approaching holidays. Sales amount to about 23,200 bales for the five business days, of which we estimate 9,500 bales Sakellaridis, 8,800 bales Uppers, 4,200 bales Zagora, 200 bales Brown, 250 bales Pilion, and 250 bales White. Arrivals are considerably less than last week, but this is explained by the fact that there have been heavy rains, which have impeded the movement of cotton.

Sakellaridis.—The bulk of the business has been in the medium and good grades, the lower grades having been rather neglected. Spot parities are steady, without much change for Fully Good Fair and better; for Good Fair and below they are somewhat cheaper.

Upper Egypt and Zagora Lower Egypt.—There has been business in all grades, with the medium and good grades in most request. Spot parities are steady with a hardening tendency, especially for the better grades.

Brown.—A moderate business has been done in medium and good grades. Spot parities are unchanged for Good Fair and below, but are rather dearer for the higher grades.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done mainly in good grades. Spot parities are without much change except Good, which is dearer.

White.—A fair business has been done in the better grades. Spot parities for Fully Good Fair and upwards are somewhat dearer. The lower grades are without much change.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Greater Activity.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended January 3 states :—

The past week has been a fairly active one for this time of the year. New Year's Day was a holiday, and a large number of firms are now engaged in stocktaking, but, nevertheless, sufficient business has been done to maintain the cheerful belief that 1925 will be a better year for the cotton trade than any since 1920. For this belief the assured supplies of American cotton, with their accompanying lower prices, are chiefly responsible, since they have already resulted in considerable improvement during the last few months, which there is no reason to doubt will be continued. The shortage in, and high price of, Sakellarides is, of course, a serious matter for firms who must have that class of cotton, but the number of these is small as compared with those who are beneficially affected by the greater supply of American.

Yarn.—Whilst a large business could not be expected, a moderately good turnover has taken place in American counts, and the tone in this section remains fairly healthy. Egyptian spinners are still labouring under the difficulties referred to above, and naturally business has been very small.

Cloth.—The greater activity displayed by India towards the close of last week has again been noticeable, and it is thought that the prospects of this continuing are good. Business for other markets has been up to expectations in view of the holidays both abroad and here.

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Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
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Raw Cotton.—There has been a firmer tone in this section, a rise of 40 points taking place in American on Monday, the first day after the Christmas holidays. Egyptian has also maintained its recent strength. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.57; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 30.15.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Moderate Inquiry for Spot Cotton.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 31:—

Egyptian Spot.—Conditions over the holidays have ruled quiet, and a very moderate inquiry for spot cotton has been in evidence during the three business days under review. There is a tone of optimism about, however, and an undercurrent indicative of business pending in the near future, unless the price asked for the raw material gets beyond control. Lately many complaints have been heard from spinners, who protest that manufacturers are not paying the latest advances asked, and that in order to make business a considerable cut in their margins has become necessary. Inquiries for Sakel have ranged chiefly from 26.00d. to 28.00d., and beyond the latter figure business is very slow indeed. More interest has again been shown in the lower qualities. Uppers continue in steady request at from 19.00d. to 21.00d. for the better class of cotton, and from 17.00d. to 18.50d. for the lower. There appears to be very little offering in the lower qualities. Sudan cotton has been in poor request, but one parcel of Sudan Sakel changed hands at 31.50d. C.i.f. business has been practically at a standstill, but offers from Alexandria have shown no signs of weakening. Forwardings for the week ending 26th instant were returned as 5,238 bales. Estimated sales (three days), 600 Egyptian and 100 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are advanced 40 points—fair exceptionally 10 points. Brown and upper are 40 to 50 points higher on the week. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day (30th instant), 29.65d.

Egyptian Futures.—Although last Wednesday's session is included in this report, we do not purpose devoting much space to the happenings on that date. Trading was essentially of a pre-holiday character, and after minor operations and fluctuations the level showed little change on the day. The resumption of business on Monday witnessed a further outburst of "bullish" activity in the overseas market, and fresh high levels for the season were established during the course of the morning, when the January position touched $58.80. Whilst this naturally influenced a sharp advance at this side, we did not respond to anything like the extent necessary to maintain the differences at a normal parity. In fact, from the commencement of the week to the time of writing, the local market has shown a somewhat hesitating tendency, and, with Alexandria maintaining a steady tone, our contract now stands at quite an appreciable discount. There has been little support in evidence from trade sources, and probably this has induced a certain amount of outside liquidation, which, in view of the rather restricted business, has had more than its due effect on values. Manchester reports indicate a very fair inquiry, which is expected to materialise into a good business in the early New Year. We generally experience a wave of optimism at this period, but certainly there are more substantial grounds for the expectation of a prosperous New Year in the textile industry than we have had for a long time. We do not believe that the local contract can be subject to any sustained pressure as long as ruling spot values are maintained and with Alexandria holding its present premium; therefore, conservative purchases on easy markets should give satisfactory results. The new Sakel and Upper options for November, 1925, delivery have attracted little attention since we last wrote, and the former is quoted nominally unchanged from the ruling level at the time of our last report, whilst the latter, in sympathy with the rise in American values, is nominally advanced 65 points. The present contract at noon to-day showed advances of 45 to 90 points for near and 90 to 105 for distant, from the close of the 23rd instant.

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. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 10).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 14).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 16); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 17).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Nagpur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 16).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 24).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 31). M.s. Sycamore for Galatz and Braila (the first steamer of the season for the Danube) (Liverpool, February 7). S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, January 9); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Beyrout, Jaffa, and Haifa (Manchester, January 15).

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*MASSILIA, Jan. 30. *CIRCASSIA, Feb. 27.
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Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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KAISAR-I-H'D	11,430	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi
†NOVARA	7,000	Jan. 1[illegible]	—	Colombo & Calcutta
†KASHGAR	9,000	Jan. 16	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA	21,000	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Colombo & Australia
DEVANHA	8,000	Jan. 23	Jan. 30	Bombay & Karachi
§KHYBER	9,000	Jan. 30	—	Colombo & Australia
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*MANDALA	8,246	Jan. 10	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi
MERKARA	8,235	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Madras & Calcutta
MANELA	8,303	—	Jan 22	East African Ports
¶DOMALA	8,441	—	Jan. 30	Bombay & Karachi
MADURA	8,975	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Madras & Calcutta
†MODASA	8,983	Jan. 24	Feb. 13	Bombay & Karachi
†MARGHA	9,258	Jan. 31	Feb. 14	Madras & Calcutta

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City of Paris	10,902	Jan. 20	Bombay and Karachi
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FEB 2 1925

THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 714.—Vol. XXVII.
Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1925

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No. 714—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Situation in Yugoslavia.

It is noticeable that the arrest of M. Raditch and the proscription of the Croatian Peasant Party have coincided with attempts on the part of the Government of M. Pashitch to ease the internal situation in other directions. There are signs of a genuine desire to reach a *détente* with Montenegro, and for the moment the absence of news from Macedonia suggests that the quiescence of the Macedonians has been reciprocated by the local authorities. It would materially strengthen the position of the Government if it could point to some constructive policy in regard to Montenegro. Hitherto the system of rigid centralisation has been marked only by the unyielding opposition that it has provoked. Now that M. Raditch, by his Communist leanings and impossible tactics, has played into the hands of M. Pashitch, the latter has an exceptional opportunity for showing that his system is compatible with contentment among the reasonable elements in the new kingdom. The trouble in Montenegro to-day—whatever may have been its origin a few years back—turns largely on the economic distress. If practical steps to relieve this could be taken by the Yugoslav Government, and if it could be shown that, although it could not budge from the policy of making Montenegro part of Serbia, it had no wish to obliterate Montenegrin nationality, but was prepared to give it full separate recognition, as, for instance, in the Yugoslav army and in the matter of local autonomy, there would seem to be no reason why the relations between Montenegro and Serbia should not be on a par with those between Wales and England. Whatever measures, however, that are adopted to this end must be sincere, and not prompted by the mere desire to throw dust in the eyes of either Montenegrins or foreigners. A bold policy in this direction could hardly fail to impress the Croats, many of whom must be beginning by now to be tired of M. Raditch and his tactics, and to be desirous of being able to think better of M. Pashitch and his policy.

The Croatian Leaders.

A significant development is reported from Yugoslavia in the release by the Zagreb Court of all the detained Croatian leaders, with the exception of M. Raditch, on the ground that there is not sufficient evidence against them. The Belgrade Press is said to be very angry over this unexpected *dénouement*, and talks of other Yugoslav Courts ordering the re-arrest of the leaders on other indictments. It is to be hoped that M. Pashitch will not allow himself in such a matter to be pushed to unwise lengths by his extremist followers. He will be able to recall an incident in his own life twenty-six years ago when he too was arrested in Serbia on a trumped-up charge and kept in prison for three months while evidence was being procured (he might himself say manufactured) against him. Those were unregenerate days, and he will not willingly be a party to reproducing them in 1925. The action of the Zagreb Court may be a blow to the Government; but it is more concerned to establish its case against M. Raditch than to supply his subordinates with real grounds for grievances. If action against the Croatian Peasant Party has been taken in the interests of the State, the fate of the subordinate leaders can be a matter of indifference to the Radical Cabinet; their detention on suspicion or their actual imprisonment can only become of importance if it were desired to influence in any way the free course of the approaching elections.

Refugees in Greece.

Urgent appeals continue to reach this country from Greece on behalf of the refugees, and it is to be hoped that they will meet with a generous response. The Greeks, thanks to the help that they have received from abroad, have already a notable achievement to their credit in the manner in which they have contrived to absorb so many of these destitute newcomers in the daily life of the country. A lot still remains to be done, however. It is reckoned that a fifth of the refugees in Macedonia must remain under canvas during the present winter, and great need exists in a number of camps. The cold is felt very much in winter in most parts of Greece; in Macedonia the weather can be very severe at this

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time. Donations should be addressed to Sir Maurice Bonham-Carter, Hon. Treasurer, All-British Appeal, 26, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1, and gifts of clothing, blankets, etc., should be sent to the All-British Appeal, New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E.1.

Electoral Signs in Egypt.

With the formation of a new party in Egypt the approaching electoral contest resolves itself into a triangular contest between Zaghloulists, Liberal Constitutionalists, and Unionists. As there is little difference in policies between the latter two, it is to be supposed that in the actual election their candidates will not oppose one another where there is a Zaghloulist to be defeated. The Unionists come into the field late in the day. Their programme, which includes "Work for the realisation of the complete independence of Egypt and the Sudan," is as "Nationalist" as that of Zaghloul, but it suggests a profounder appreciation of the needs of the situation and a tendency for more practical tactics. Domestic reforms may be expected to precede any attempt to raise the independence question in an acute form, and will certainly provide a shorter cut to the goal in view than the measures adopted by Zaghloul Pasha. It is of interest to note that of the two names mentioned in connection with the presidency of the new Unionist party, one is that of Aziz Izzet Pasha, Egyptian Minister in London, who is now on his way to Cairo. If Izzet Pasha should be elected, his leadership of the party would be a guarantee that it would proceed along constitutional lines and set store on reaching a *modus vivendi* with Great Britain.

Wahhabi Raids.

In a dispute between Sultan Ibn Saud of Nejd and the Hejaz it is possible for Great Britain to adopt the passive attitude of an onlooker; but already the Wahhabis, who seem definitely to have entered upon one of their periodical overflows, have been guilty of trespassing on British preserves with an attack on Transjordan, and now comes news of a series of raids on Iraq. Three years ago, when similar raids took place, Sultan Ibn Saud apologised for his insubordinate followers and undertook to keep them in better order. The value of his promises is seen in recent events, although we may expect him to urge his presence in Mecca, beyond the borders of his own country, as an excuse for the shortcomings of the Wahhabis left behind in Nejd. Perhaps Iraq ought to be satisfied with a period of three years' freedom from Wahhabi incursions and attribute it to the effective punishment then administered to the raiders. As the strength of Sultan Ibn Saud's hold on his tribesmen is problematical, and as there can be no question of military measures to bring him to book, the best course is to develop defensive measures on Iraq's southern frontier. The Air Force has again punished the Wahhabis fairly severely, but not before the unoffending Iraqi tribesmen had suffered badly. It will be a sound course to establish one or more strongly held posts in the danger zone, which, if equipped with wireless, will be able to give much earlier notice to the Royal Air Force of the presence of raiders.

Iraq and the Ottoman Debt.

The Iraq Government is sending a deputation, comprising one British and one Iraq official, to raise the question of the share of the Ottoman Public Debt to be apportioned to Iraq. The amount actually fixed is seven and a-half million pounds sterling, a sum which bears little relation to the total of the debt, but is a serious burden for the new Arab State. It is not unnatural, therefore, that the Baghdad Government should feel called upon to protest against the Iraq allocation, and on this point it has the sympathy of British officials connected with the country. A point that is not likely to be lost sight of is that, whereas other Succession States of the old Ottoman Empire and even Turkey herself, may fail to pay their shares, the British connection is certain to result in prompt payment by Iraq. Judged by a certain standard, the financial clauses in the Iraq Treaty may have been just; they were certainly not generous. There has now been time to reflect whether British interests, as well as those of Iraq itself, will not be better served by lightening the burden on the new State as much as possible, in order that the period until her complete rehabilitation may be reduced to the shortest limits.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Liberalism.

The mighty corpse of Liberalism, heavy with past achievements and unfulfilled aspirations, has during the last week been pulled hither and thither by mourners anxious to bring it to life again. A call to youth has been made (something is always amiss when the fallibility of senile intelligence is implied); political war songs have been written; and the Liberal organs of the Press have been striking their most piercing and fulsome notes.

But still no sign from the corpse. Dead, dead as a door-nail it is. It is all passing strange, because without any doubt at all, there is plenty of room for a real Liberalism in this country. But it is a ringing, challenging avatar that is needed; not a negative, luke-warm comforting of the middle-classes. Something may conceivably come from Manchester, which was represented in the great Liberal "rally" of last week; but as yet the doctrines emanating from that dull home of prosperity are academic and sterile; nor have they touched a national note. The part that Mr. Lloyd George will play in this revival will probably be that of a bewildered spectator, assisting at a game the rules of which have completely changed since the days when he could be both referee and chief goal-getter.

The Meat Rings.

The evidence which the "meat magnates" gave to or withheld from the Royal Commission on Food Prices last week was by no means encouraging. It confirmed in the darkest way the public's suspicion that very tight meat rings have been formed, although that fact was quite evident to anyone who took the trouble to compare the price paid, say, to the Australian exporter on the embarkation of his meat in Britain, with the price paid by the English

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consumer. The profits made by meat-importing firms have been really colossal, a fact of gratification to very few people in this country.

It becomes increasingly doubtful whether the Commission will be able to get its nose right inside the problem—if it did, the unsavouriness of the atmosphere might appal it. But at least no harm will be done by the public exposure of the character of these wealthy meat-importing people.

St. Paul's.

The word has gone out that St. Paul's dome is falling down. That it must be saved is obvious; and that it will be saved (the amount of £140,000 is to be subscribed to the fund which *The Times*, which has, at least on this matter, a finely national conscience, is raising) is certain. It is rather interesting to discover the motives which are impelling Englishmen from all parts of the Empire to help support the great dome that is from Fleet Street one of London's loveliest sights. The religious instinct can scarcely be the major one in this business; probably the national and the æsthetic senses are what is chiefly being exercised. In a way, it is fortunate that the possibility of such a disaster was reported in our age, which is increasingly anxious for the architecture of London. Architecture has in the last few years become something of a popular study: the work that such societies as the London Society and the Architecture Society, for example, have accomplished has been of very considerable national value.

Agricultural Policy.

The Prime Minister's plan of persuading a conference of English agricultural interests to formulate a policy for the salvation of British husbandry seems to have been foiled. Complaint has been made that the landowners and the farmers on the proposed conference outnumbered the workers, who have now definitely refused to participate. This is extremely unfortunate, but it is difficult not to lay a certain blame at the door of the Government for its vagueness. The Government refused responsibility for the conference, which would therefore, in any case, have been rather groping in the dark. Now, imperatively, the Government must of itself formulate a policy. If it is Protection—well, let it be Protection; but, at all events, let us have a policy, and not continue longer to see the degeneration of the countryside.

Cup-Tie Football.

That orgy of speculation in which nine out of ten Englishmen indulge—I mean the subject of the winners of the Football Cup—began last Saturday. It is amazing how national, or, rather, fiercely local, this institution has become; "supporters" go almost mad over these Cup games; and he who on Monday knows not all the important results of the previous Saturday is looked upon either as an eccentric or a non-sportsman.

From the point of view of the game itself, it was a great pity that the Corinthians—the one amateur team in the Cup—were so easily knocked out by Sheffield United. It seems to be a fact that this glorious side is not so strong as it was, say, last year. But Association amateur football generally is regaining something of the strength which it lost when so many public schools deserted it for Rugby; and competitions like the Arthur Dunn and the A.F.A. Cup are this year being fought out on a satisfactorily high level of football. With schools like Westminster, Malvern, Winchester, Repton, and Shrewsbury, and so on still playing, there is not any real fear of the submergence of Association.

A Victorian Hogarth?

It has been a late fashion of Georgian times to expose the seamier side of the Victorian régime, its cant and smugness, its facility and its content. But under all this veneer of religion and prosperity and the rest of it there were yet Englishmen who were still Englishmen, enjoying life in a simple, primitive way. No histories tell us of this bourgeois underworld, just as no histories would give one any idea of social conditions in the eighteenth century unless Hogarth's art had preserved them to us.

Now something in this way has been done for the late Victorian era by Walter Sickert, the strangely created A.R.A., whose exhibition of etchings and engravings is now being held at the Leicester Galleries. Sickert is, of course, a very beautiful and creative artist, but it is rather of the general than of the artistic value of his works that I am now speaking. How lovable those garish and hectic 'eighties and 'nineties must have been! In his pictures you may live again in the old music halls, now for ever drowned in a sea of respectability—*e.g.*, the Bedford and the Middlesex—and catch for a while the tang of a life that was much more than it has been supposed to be.

Theatres and Broadcasting.

The fight between the theatre-managers and the broadcasting company goes merrily, or rather, acridly, on. Another round was begun on Saturday, when Mr. Donald Calthrop, resolving to broadcast his revue, "Yoicks," was told by various provincial managers that they would refuse to produce provincial shows of the revue. Mr. Calthrop, who has a refreshing air of enterprise, replied that he would produce the provincial shows himself; and "Yoicks" was duly broadcasted on Saturday night.

It seems a little silly thus to fight against broadcasting, which obviously is a thing which will increase in its uses. To say that things heard by its agency will not be listened to in a theatre is the veriest nonsense; one might as well say that pianoforte scores of Gilbert and Sullivan would destroy the popularity of the d'Oyly Carte Company.

The Cross-Word Puzzle.

Whence the cross-word puzzle came I do not know: it is sufficient that it is. Not a railway carriage, a bus, a home that has not its devotees: its popularity has even reached the heights of being ridiculed in *Punch*. Apparently, like chess, it came from the East—some say in the fifteenth

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century, in which case I have no doubt that my Liberal friends will see the dark hand of the Turk in it all. It is, according to those who make it their business to instruct us on these matters, a combination of the anagram, the acrostic, the rebus and ancient magic squares; and it seems that when Britons went by other names, peoples in Hindustan and China were attempting to discover, say, a word of five letters of which they knew only the middle letter.

Of course, the craze is being eagerly exploited by the advertising agents, so that one almost, when one turns over the pages of a journal in the morning, has one's doubts of how many were consumed the night before, so abundant are the crosses and jig-saws and general blacks and whites.

Progress in Broadcasting.

There is for scientific developments no word so applicable as the word "progress"; many thinkers, indeed, believe that it should be applied to science alone. In very few things has there been more progress than in broadcasting in Great Britain. There is no doubt that, whatever may be thought of it as an entertainment, broadcasting has come to stay. Very much was discovered in the last year, and there are signs that the B.B.C. really intends to use its monopoly sagaciously and generously. A new high-power station at Daventry, which can be used by crystal sets for a hundred miles and by two-valve sets all over Britain, will very soon be working; and the prospect of alternative programmes will be exciting indeed to the enthusiast.

A Ministry of Fine Arts.

It is possible, if we were to have a succession of Prime Ministers as enlightened as Mr. Baldwin, that one fine day we might wake up and find a Ministry of Fine Arts created. At present, however, the signs are scarcely propitious. But there is no harm in hammering away at the subject, and one was rather pleased to see the Incorporated Society of Musicians doing this the other day at its Harrogate Conference. It was pointed out that teachers of music should be placed on an equal footing with other branches of the teaching profession; that some diplomas, by which the public were gulled, were worthless; and that the only way to remedy the present scandal would be the instituting of a Ministry which should govern all matters relating to the issue of diplomas in music and in the other arts.

Roman Britain.

From time to time in these columns I have remarked on the evidence which comes increasingly to light for disbelieving the myth current in Victorian times that this island owes but little to its Roman forbears. The pendulum is, in fact, swinging now heavily the other way. During the past week two very important finds have been made: the first near Shrewsbury, where a considerable Roman city, Uriconium, has been uncovered, and the second, in St. Michael's, Cornhill, where three separate walls of Roman workmanship have been found. Will British achievements in foreign lands from which ultimately and inevitably we shall have to withdraw endure so long?

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Marianovitch, the Mayor of Belgrade, fell into an apoplexy on January 5 and died.

Heavy rain has fallen at Aden, and the great tanks which are usually empty are now full of fresh water.

On December 30 the Bulgarian Sobranye ratified the Geneva Protocol for the Protection of Minorities.

Sir Geoffrey Archer, the newly appointed Governor-General of the Sudan, arrived at Khartoum on January 5 from Uganda.

The appointment is announced of the Sheikh Shawish, who has been a prominent figure in the Nationalist agitation, as Controller of Elementary Education.

The "Proceedings of the Standing Joint Committee on Indian Affairs (Session 1924)" have been printed by H.M. Stationery Office as a White Paper (15), price 2d. net.

Zekkai Bey, Commissioner for the Public Debt, left Angora on January 8 for London to take part in a conference on financial questions arising out of the Lausanne Treaty.

Niazi Bey, Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Turkish Government Mint at Constantinople, arrived in London last Thursday, from Angora, for the purpose of visiting the Royal Mint at Tower Hill.

The Egyptian Government has appointed Mr. Horace Mayne to be Inspector-General of the Egyptian State Telegraphs and Telephones, with seniority as from November, 1923, the date when he began to act in that position.

According to Reuter's Cairo correspondent, it is stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hejaz has informed the Consuls at Jeddah that the Southern Hejaz ports are under blockade, and that all ships within the area of the blockade are liable to seizure.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught will pay a private visit to Madras on March 2, after a trip to Rangoon. There will probably be some snipe shooting at the famous grounds near Chingleput. The Prince and Princess will leave Madras on March 5 for Mysore.

A cable to the Eastern Transport Company from Beyrout states that Arabia is experiencing the most severe winter in the memory of man, and the climate is intensely cold. Snow has fallen in Baghdad and Palmyra and the desert is covered with a layer 10 inches deep. Severe night frosts accompany the visitation.

The Rev. Dr. D. Mackichan, who has been three times Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay, and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, arrived recently in Bombay to take part in the opening ceremony of the extension of Wilson College, Bombay, of which he was Principal for over forty years.

At their monthly luncheon next Friday (January 23) at the Criterion Restaurant, the Central Council and members of the Overseas League will entertain as their guest of honour General Sir William Birdwood, late General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Army in India, and Commander of the Australian and New Zealand Forces in Gallipoli during the War. Sir Ernest Birch will preside.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby reviewed last Saturday morning the first battalion of the Hampshire Regiment at the Cairo Citadel preparatory to the battalion's departure for India on January 17. The Commander-in-Chief of the British troops in Egypt, Lieut.-General Sir Richard Haking, who is also Colonel-in-Chief of the Hampshire Regiment, was present, as well as several high military officers and a large assembly from the British community. This was the first occasion on which Lord Allenby has inspected any British troops since the murder of the Sirdar.

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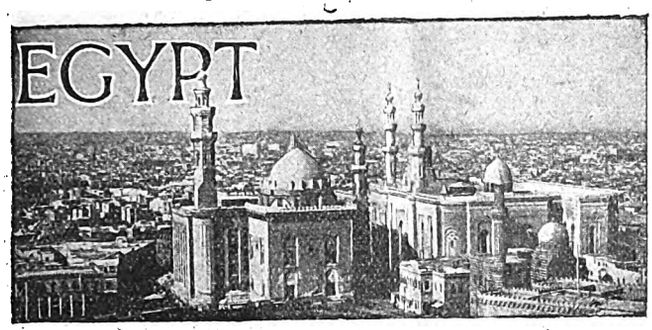
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, January 3.

Egypt in 1925.

It has been a curious coincidence that since the Armistice the turn of the year has always found Egypt faced with a critical political situation, and 1925 has proved no exception to the rule. It has opened with the country plunged into the midst of an electoral campaign, which bids fair to be more violent and more tense than any that has taken place in Egypt since elections were first introduced, and in which are involved what are probably the most serious issues that have as yet confronted the country.

The Question of the Students.

The first days of the New Year have, moreover, witnessed an acute situation in the schools. Realising what a reprehensible part the students and the schoolboys had played in the past elections and what grave consequences to public order might ensue from the incursion of such an irresponsibly minded element, the Cabinet decided, on the advice of the Ministers of the Interior and Education, to issue very strict instructions in this connection. No pupils in any of the Government schools are to be allowed, under pain of severe penalties, to absent themselves from their classes, to form committees, to participate in demonstrations, to go on journeys into the provinces, to take any part in the electoral campaign, or in any way to mix themselves up in politics; and the masters and provincial authorities have been ordered to see that these instructions are strictly adhered to. The publication of this decision was met by an insolent manifesto from the Government school pupils announcing their determination to refuse to obey these orders and to participate as in the past in the forthcoming elections.

In their defiance of the authorities they have been openly encouraged by the Wafd, and their action has been applauded, and that of the Government severely criticised, by the Wafd organs. The situation is admittedly serious. There is no doubt, however, that from every point of view the Government has been fully justified in taking this step, and it is much to be regretted that the extremist leader, by his silence and the manner in which he has condoned the attitude of his supporters, should have lent his countenance to this defiance of authority which no political considerations can justify. No one but a man equipped with the peculiar mentality of Zaghloul Pasha and his associates would ever dream of encouraging insubordination among schoolboys in the manner in which they are doing. No one but a demagogue, who was blind to the real interest of his country and only thought of himself, would have enlisted on his side, purely for the purpose of furthering his own personal ends, an element which in no civilised country is allowed to participate in such a serious business as general elections and the incitement of which cannot fail to have the worst possible reaction on the generation to which Egypt must look for her intellectual and social development.

While on the one hand the attitude the Zaghloulists have taken up reveals the true weakness of their position, on the other hand, by their refusal to second the efforts of the Government to re-establish discipline in the schools, and, indeed, by their active support of the pupils in their flagrant defiance of the authorities, Zaghloul Pasha and his associates are doing once again the very thing calculated to discredit them in the eyes of the world and to confirm the impression, already fairly prevalent, that they stand for everything that is revolutionary and reactionary.

The Wafd.

The part which they are playing in this matter has, indeed, aroused the lively condemnation of the entire foreign community, which sees, with regret, that the Wafd has by no means learned a lesson from recent events, and that it is still prompted in its policy by the same short-sighted and self-seeking motives which were responsible for the grave crisis that followed the reassembly of Parliament.

In other directions also the Wafd is leaving no stone unturned to counter the Government and the Opposition parties. The decision of the Council of Ministers agreeing to certain of the demands of the Azharites was certainly a blow to the Zaghloulists, since it was calculated to draw the inmates of that establishment to the side of their opponents. Something had to be done to remove from the public mind any impression that Al Azhar had defected from the Wafdist leader, and so it was arranged that a deputation should wait on him and testify to the continued loyalty of that institution. It was, however, a very poor affair. None of the leading Ulema or Azharites was represented, and although

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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a great splash was made in the Wafd Press no one has been deceived by this manœuvre.

Let it not be thought, however, that the victory of the anti-Zaghloulists is in sight. The Government is certainly gaining ground, and with the growing activity of the Watanists and Liberal Constitutionalists, the campaign against the Wafd is making noticeable progress. The latter is, however, determined to put up a stern fight. At a recent meeting one of the executive committee declared that the coming elections were a question of "life and death" to the Wafd, and, knowing as one does of what it has been capable in the past, one can confidently expect that in its desperation it will not be deterred by moral considerations from enlisting any factor or element that may assist to ward off the danger that threatens its existence. The electoral campaign may, therefore, show some unexpected developments, and there may be several interesting surprises in store.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, January 7.

Dissolution of the Raditch Party.

As early as December 23, 1924, the Yugoslav Government determined that the Croatian Republican Peasant Party, called the Raditch Party for short, must be dissolved and all its party activities brought to an end, on the grounds that it had infringed the Defence of the State Law (the Yugoslav "Dora," in fact). Relative to this determination, a special notice was to be published, called the *Obznana*, in which the Government was to specify in full its reasons for so weighty a step, together with the measures it proposed to take.

With keen interest this *Obznana* was awaited by the public. But day after day passed, and the notice failed to appear. Already an impression was beginning to gain ground that the whole business was just bluff, that there was going to be no *Obznana* after all, and in Zagreb they were beginning to treat the matter as a joke. All of a sudden things became serious, and the *Obznana* appeared, after ten days of hesitation and delay.

The accepted explanation for this delay is that its reasons must be sought for in recent events in Croatia, and especially within the fold of the Raditch Party itself. M. Raditch holds the view that a deputy is only the minister of his party, wherefore he may serve no policy save that of his own party. A deputy may not have a given constituency, and when addressing his constituents he must have nothing to recommend him but his adherence to his party. In accordance with these views, M. Raditch has carried out a radical regrouping of his candidates for the forthcoming elections. Popular candidates had to resign their constituencies, although all local election organisations emphatically demanded the return of their old deputies.

M. Raditch also holds the view that a deputy's daily allowances are the property of the party, and not of the deputy. He therefore demanded that his deputies should hand over their daily allowances to the party funds, and the central committee took his part. He furthermore forbade his deputies all intervention on behalf of their constituents. The right of intervention is vested in the party alone, and even then only for matters touching the whole community. All other form of intervention was forbidden by M. Raditch lest some one of his deputies should become popular enough to be able to set the party at defiance.

Apparent Rifts in the Raditch Lute.

These dictatorial views naturally created much bad blood in the ranks of the Raditch deputies, and ended in a definite little revolt. M. Raditch opposed a blank silence to all protests and remonstrances on the part of his deputies, and even went a step further by excluding from candidature all deputies who failed to hand over the whole of their daily allowance to the party funds! In his leading party paper he pilloried these deputies, representing them as covetous and undisciplined members of the party.

The first consequence of this arbitrary proceeding was that the Deputy Lovrekovitch rose openly against M. Raditch, and began to publish a paper of his own (if a politician starts a fresh faction in this country his first step is always to start a fresh paper as well, in spite of the plethora of small party papers already in existence), in which he brought forward a series of serious accusations against M. Raditch. He stated that M. Raditch was making use of party funds for himself and his family; that he had not summoned the Central Committee for over a year, although by the statutes of the party this committee was to meet at least once in three months; and, above all, that the Central Committee alone had the right to determine candidatures. Dr. Lovrekovitch went even further. He started a party of his own, declared himself a Monarchist on the occasion of his audience with the King, and was especially emphatic in condemning the adherence of the Croatian Republican Peasant Party to the Moscow Peasant Internationale.

Dr. Lovrekovitch's secession was thorough and more than radical, and so it is not to be wondered at that his step found but little support among the rest of the discontented Raditch Deputies. Still, they could not see their way to swallowing their leader's bitter pills without a struggle. So it came to a conference of the malcontents under Dr. Horvat, who had from the first been against adherence to the Peasant Internationale.

This conference aroused great interest in Government circles. It was openly said that a split in the Raditch Party was certain and imminent, and that thirty-six Deputies (more than one-half of the total) had declared against M. Raditch's policy.

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Over two hundred organisations were said to have joined the secessionists. High hopes prevailed in the Government set, and the publication of the *Obznana* was delayed so as not to anticipate the auspicious issue of events.

But all these fair hopes proved deceptive and false. M. Raditch was in Zagreb (which he had probably never left, by the way), working with zeal. As he is hampered by exceedingly short sight, he had his correspondence read to him by his wife and daughter, tirelessly dictated letters and circulars, despatched his couriers to every spot where the secessionists seemed to be gaining ground; and as even the threatened *Obznana* failed to materialise, he gained a complete victory, and the secessionists had to capitulate.

They declared that it had never been their intention to found a new party, that they submitted to all party decisions, and that they only desired to protest against the reproach of having withheld their allowances. Other Deputies kept theirs, and M. Raditch kept silence about it. His accusations were directed against them alone, and that because they had dared to protest against joining the Moscow Peasant Internationale. M. Raditch's proceeding was not an act of justice, but of revenge, and that is why they protested.

The Government and the Raditch Party.

The Government now realised that its delay had been a mistake, and that it was vain to count upon a split in the Raditch Party. So the decision of the Cabinet was put in force, and Yugoslavia experienced her second *Obznana*.

In virtue of the Defence of the State Law, the Raditch Party was declared to be dissolved and its activities forbidden. The leaders were arrested, and the whole procedure justified by the party's alleged Communism, which transpires from the following facts:—

(1) That M. Raditch and his secretary had spent some considerable time abroad, where he was engaged in illicit propaganda; he had gone to Moscow and inscribed his party in the Peasant International. He was by way of having declared at the time that the Peasant International was founded by Lenin, that its programme was drawn up by Zinoviev, that Smirnov was its president, and therewith all its leading functionaries were well-known Communists. The party's adherence to the Peasant International was approved on May 1, 1924, at a plenary sitting of the Raditch deputies, and was followed by the formal inclusion of the Croatian Republican Peasant Party in the Moscow Peasant International.

(2) That M. Raditch's party had not only remained in touch with the Peasant International, but had publicly defended the latter, making propaganda for it—*i.e.*, for the Communist International. Hereby the Raditch party had adopted Communistic aims hostile to the State, and had engaged in co-operation with the prohibited Independent Labour Party, as the Communist Party in Yugoslavia now calls itself.

(3) That the Raditch party had also been in close touch with the Macedonian Organisation, led by Todor Alexandroff, which agitated for the forcible detachment of South Serbia from Yugoslavia.

(4) That the president of the party—viz., Stepan Raditch—contributed, furthermore, to the Vienna paper, *Balkan Federation*, which likewise agitated for the detachment of South Serbia from Yugoslavia.

Wherefore the Council of Ministers determined:

(1) That the Raditch party be dissolved forthwith, as by joining the Moscow Peasant International it had become a component part of the Communist International.

(2) That all meetings, conferences, and all activities of the party be in future forbidden; likewise the appearance of all its Press publications, books, and leaflets.

(3) That par. 18 of the Defence of the State Law be applied to the Raditch party in all its rigour.

(4) That all archives, leaflets, publications, and correspondence of the party be confiscated without delay; and

(5) That the criminal prosecution of the responsible leaders of the party be set on foot as speedily as possible.

This *Obznana* of the Government made no special impression upon the public. The proofs advanced by the Government were not overwhelming—they were not even convincing. That M. Raditch had joined the Peasant International had been public property long ago. It was also a fact that the Raditch party had continued faithful to its non-revolutionary programme, and that latterly M. Raditch preached only pacifism, and desired to bring about his victory solely by means of parliamentary activity.

The whole of the Opposition protested emphatically against the *Obznana*, and stigmatised it as an absolutist ordinance, serving only special party interests, calculated to injure the prospect of a Serbo-Croat agreement most acutely, and to jeopardise the consolidation of the State. In Government circles it was pointed out that the measure was aimed solely at the leaders, and that it must in no wise be interpreted as a *démarche* against the Croats; that the evidence was overwhelming, as would appear at the trial.

The publication of the *Obznana* was followed immediately by numerous arrests in Zagreb. The most important of these was unquestionably that of Dr. Matsek, the first Vice-President of the Skupshtina, who, according to the Serbian view, most certainly enjoys the right of immunity.

As for M. Raditch himself, the police for a long time failed to find him. However, at a second very thorough search of his house, M. Raditch was discovered in a hiding-place under the floor, so it is said, and arrested. There are many rumours afloat concerning the details of this arrest, and the truth is not likely to come out before the trial, which will probably not take place until after the elections are over.

The Raditch party is dissolved, and now the question arises whether the Croatian electors may vote for the Raditch lists, almost all of which had already been approved previously and confirmed by the courts. However this question may be

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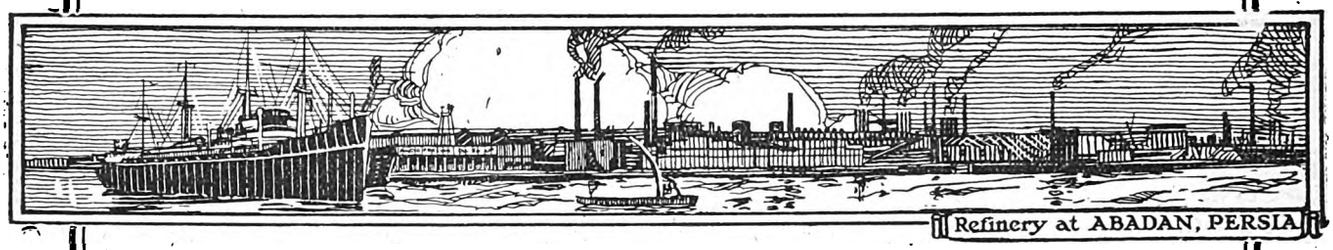

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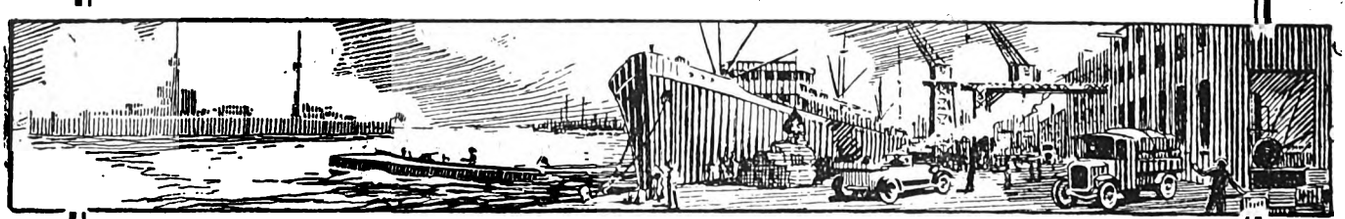

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dealt with, it was pretty well certain that the Croats would vote solid for the Opposition parties, and will do so all the more now after M. Raditch's arrest.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 31.

The Peasant Party.

Roumania is principally an agricultural country. Her industry and commerce are, one may say, little older than the present century, and are subject to the usual economic vicissitudes. The cultivation of the soil still is, and will continue to be, the basis of the wealth of Roumania, which before the War was an important cereal exporting country.

It is hardly necessary to remind readers how, in their anxiety to avoid a revolutionary movement in sympathy with Communism and to fulfil the promises made under pressure of the War crisis, the first Parliament which sat after the Armistice decided upon the Agrarian Reform and immediately carried it into effect. This measure, which was the more remarkable as it was carried out by a majority of large landed proprietors, gave a political status to the peasants, and it may be said that from that time dates the existence of their ideals as a class and of the doctrines upon which the "Tsaranism" of to-day is based. (Tsaran means a peasant, and the party is known as the Tsaranists.)

M. Raducanu, a distinguished professor of Political Economy and one of the most enlightened of the leaders of his party, has given for THE NEAR EAST a general outline of his ideas, which explains the constitution and aspirations of his group.

First of all he defines the Peasants' Party as the party of democracy in its purest form, and protests against all insinuations of Communism. The Peasants' Party is anti-Communistic, for its foundations rest upon individual proprietorship and the respect for liberty. It includes a kernel of peasant proprietors, and it believes in defending their interests, which are those of Roumania itself. It has gathered together a majority of intellectual and University men, who realise the importance of the peasant's place in the national economy. The party does not put forward a programme opposed in its doctrines to that of the Liberals, but considers that the difference between them lies in the method of application—the principles for which they stand.

Criticism of the Liberals.

M. Raducanu describes the Liberal Party as one which pursues a class policy. The members of the Liberal Party are, according to the Tsaranists, the exclusive beneficiaries of political power. They are recruited from the former large landed proprietors, bankers, lawyers, and certain merchants—all elements which are attempting to make political power compensate for the loss of their economic influence. They are unproductive intermediaries, making their livelihood essentially from their profession of politician, whereas even before the War the Roumanian peasants were in themselves an economic force in Roumania. The Liberals are the expression of national capitalism with Chauvinistic tendencies, using their wealth as a means of establishing their privileges and founding their monopolies and for organising the private utilisation of public funds. So say the Tsaranists. They further draw attention to the fact that this class of capitalists has not the same origin as the capitalist class in Western countries. They do not represent a bourgeoisie which has accumulated its economies laid aside during past years of hard work, but are a *parvenu* class, having their origin in the exploitation of public funds as politicians, and in the exploitation of peasant labour as landed proprietors.

The Tsaranists regard themselves as the party of the productive classes, as opposed to the intermediary or "parasitic" class.

The Constitutional Significance of "Tsaranism."

The Peasants' Party is firmly attached to the monarchic régime, by which they mean a constitutional monarchy in the English sense, such as, unfortunately, has not yet existed in Roumania. It is well known that the great reproach brought against the Liberals, and one of the reasons of their reported unpopularity, is that they did not come into power by the will of the people, but by that of the King; that their Parliament is not representative of the people, but of the present Cabinet, the great majority not having been *elected*, but, in M. Raducanu's words, "brought in like contraband." (Here he refers to the irregularities at the elections.)

The present system is one of absolute power with the semblance of a Constitution. This is generally the case in the Balkan States, as in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary, where the same régime and the same methods of procedure are to be found. M. Raducanu declares that there is some blood relationship between Bratianu, Pashitch, Horthy, and Tsankoff, who, he says, are not the defenders of the general interests of their respective countries, but under a semblance of organisation and order the exploiters of the producing classes.

Political Power of the Peasants' Party.

M. Raducanu considers that, in spite of irregularities at the elections, the Peasants' Party is the most important in the Opposition, both as regards number and fighting force. It represents, he thinks, the majority in the country, consisting of the agrarian population.

It is the hope of the leaders of the party that, situated as it is between Bolshevism and Liberalism, Tsaranism will gradually grow in influence, defending the interests of the producing class, raising it to power and the conduct of affairs, and thus bringing about a state of peace between the nations, the interests of this labouring class being identical with that of Pacifism, which precludes all idea of expansion beyond the borders of the State itself.

Political Future.

The Tsaranists believe that the Liberal Party no longer enjoys the confidence formerly placed in it even by the bourgeoisie from which it is recruited, because the realisation of its programme has neither enhanced the comfort nor improved the living conditions of this bourgeoisie class, and also because in its system of administration both public and private corruption has not been sufficiently suppressed. When the moment arrives the Peasants' Party, if called to power by the will of the people, will accept office.

It should be noted that the leaders of this Party would be in favour of introducing foreign capital.

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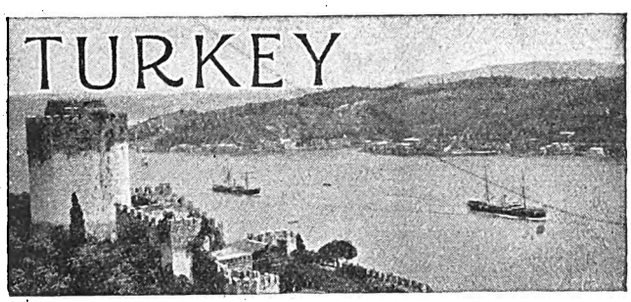
They consider this necessary to the economic development of Roumania, and believe it would bring material welfare and stimulate the progress of intellectual education.

They see no danger in this collaboration, and think it should be called upon to play an important part in Roumania with a view to establishing an equilibrium between the financial power, introduced from abroad, and the political power within the country itself.

It should also be noted that the Mining Law, which, according to the Tsaranists, contains good principles, could be revised in regard to those special clauses which favour only certain privileged companies.

Those are the views expressed by M. Raducanu in the name of his party. They are given in their original form and without any responsibility, and may prove an interesting study in so far as they summarise the aspirations of this new party, born of the general upheaval, and, apparently, destined to have a brilliant future.



Constantinople, January 6.

Rejeb Bey.

The difference of opinions on the question of the election of the Prefect of Constantinople has resulted in the loss by the Turkish Government of one of its strongest Cabinet Ministers in the person of Rejeb Bey, the Minister of the Interior, who is also a staunch supporter of the Popular party. The question whether Constantinople should elect its Prefect, or whether he should be nominated by the Government, is one which has been much discussed, and several special commissions have been formed with a view to modifying the municipal law regarding this subject. It might be remembered that on the submission by the recently formed Progressist Party of their programme, it was specifically mentioned therein that all Prefects should be elected by the people. Rejeb Bey, however, is resolutely against this mode of election, and holds that the Prefect of Constantinople should be an official of the State, and designated by the State. On finding the Cabinet in a majority against him on this question, the Minister of the Interior tendered his resignation yesterday, which stated that as he considered that, after this divergence of opinions, his presence in the Cabinet might create an embarrassing situation, he preferred to withdraw. This statement eliminates any possible erroneous conclusions regarding the reasons of his retirement. Jemil Bey, the Secretary-General of the Popular Party, has been appointed as successor to Rejeb Bey, and there is some talk of the latter's taking over the duties of Secretary-General.

Greeks and Turks.

The situation created by the decision of the Government to resort to reprisals against the Greeks here has, in view of Shukri Kaya Bey's declarations in the Assembly, returned to normal. The Press reports regarding the adoption of such measures caused considerable apprehension on the part of Greek residents in Constantinople and its suburbs, but the comparatively reassuring statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs has done much to dispel such fears. Until now, however, nothing in the form of reprisals has been evident, and it is possible that, in view of the Greek Government's intention to restore to the owners all property seized from Mussulmans before 1912, the question might be settled without the proposed measures having been put into force. M. Exindaris, the chief Greek delegate of the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations, is expected to arrive in Constantinople to-morrow, and as he is reported to have been given full powers, it is thought likely that he will sign the accord arrived at between himself and Tevfik Rushdi Bey.

The Mosul Commission.

During the last week Constantinople has entertained as guests the three members of the Commission of Inquiry who are en route for Mosul. They are now at Angora, where they have been entertained by the President of the Council, and they propose to leave for Baghdad in three days' time, following the route Konia-Adana-Aleppo. Turkish circles are very optimistic regarding the solution of the Mosul question, some even declaring themselves certain that the decision of the inquiry will be in Turkey's favour.

The "Orient News."

An unfortunate incident of the past week was the suppression by the Turkish Government of the *Orient News*, the only British newspaper in Constantinople. For the last six months there has been a steady diminution both in the size and circulation of this journal, the publications of which were more or less limited to accounts of the social doings of the British colony here. The article to which the authorities appear to have taken exception was one concerning the economical decadence of Constantinople, which was written, I am convinced, with no intention of giving offence. The decision to expel the Editor of the *Orient News* has not yet been carried out, and it is to be hoped that the matter may be satisfactorily explained.

THE DELHI MANŒUVRES.

The troops taking part in the Army Manœuvres in India assembled in the areas round Delhi last Friday. The operations began on January 12, under the direction of Lieutenant-General Sir George Barrow, who has a force of 30,000 in the field, including a division at war strength under Major-General C. J. Deverell, commanding the United Provinces District, the brigades (Indian Infantry) of his command being the 17th, 18th, and 19th, from Dehra Dun, Bareilly, and Lucknow. The manœuvres conclude on January 21 with a review by General Lord Rawlinson.

THE JORDAN VALLEY.

The Public Works Department of the Palestine Government has erected a large iron notice board on the Jericho road to indicate where the road falls below sea-level. This is about six kilometres above the entrance to the Jordan Valley. As is well known, the depression of the Jordan Valley is one of the most remarkable features on the earth's surface, and it should be of interest to tourists and others to mark visibly the point at which they begin to sink below the level of the Mediterranean.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 15, 1925 (New Style).
January 2, 1925 (Old Style).
Jomada II., 19, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebeth 19, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Count Léon Ostrorog returned on January 7 to town from the Continent.

Sir Kay Muir arrived at Blair Drummond on January 7 from Whilton Lodge, Northants.

Sir Herbert and Lady Vernon and Miss Nina Vernon have left for India, and expect to be away until Easter.

Mrs. Alec-Tweedie will be for some months at Hotel Miramar-Grimaldi, Ventimiglia, on the Franco-Italian frontier.

Viscount and Viscountess Portman left Cannes on January 2 for Egypt. They intend to spend the winter on the Nile.

The Hon. Alexander and Mrs. Shaw left London last Thursday afternoon by the P. and O. Bombay express for Marseilles to join the s.s. Malwa for Port Said.

General Milivoye Joximovitch, chief of the Ordnance Department of the Yugoslav War Office, who arrived in London last week, has had interviews with British Treasury officials in connection with the payment of war debts.

The Marquess of Graham is leaving England shortly on a business mission to Turkey, where he will interview Ministers in Angora. He will not return before the middle of March.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 3.30 p.m., Professor J. W. Scott will read a paper, entitled "Unemployment—A Lead from India." Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey will preside.

The Duke of Orleans sailed last Thursday in the s.s. Guildford Castle for Port Sudan for a shooting trip in the interior. Viscount Cobham and the Hon. Lady Lloyd-Mostyn and Miss Rhona Lloyd-Mostyn are sailing in the same ship to Mombasa.

In celebration of Christmas (according to the Russian calendar) Dr. Georges V. Todorovitch. Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London, entertained at luncheon on January 7, in the Savoy Restaurant, the personnel of the Legation, members of the colony, and several English friends.

The engagement is announced between Captain K. I. M. Fegan, M.C. (late Naval Brigade), of Dhajea Tea Estate, Darjeeling, India, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Fegan, of Bexhill, Sussex, and Stornoway, N.B., and Violet Marian, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perceval G. Shaw, of Moondakotee Tea Estate, Darjeeling, India, and Blackheath, London.

An engagement is announced between Captain George Arthur Falconer, 6th Gurkha Rifles (Indian Political Department), youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Falconer, and Esther Alexandra, only child of the late Major Boyd Bredon, J.P., of Ballintaggart, Co. Armagh, sometime Commissioner, Imperial Maritime Customs, China, and of Mrs. Boyd Bredon, Bryanston Mansions, W.1.

The engagement is announced of Captain Edward Wollaston Geidt, late 2nd Bombay Pioneers, eldest son of the late Bernard George Geidt, I.C.S., Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, and stepson of Mrs. Geidt, Beaconstone, Crowborough, Sussex, to Anna Dorothy Margaret, younger daughter of the late William Reginald Partridge, I.C.S., and Mrs. Partridge, Cofton, Starcross, Devon.

Sir Montagu Butler, the new Governor of the Central Provinces, India, who has been in England for the past month on short leave, left London on January 8 for Nagpur. He will take over charge from Sir Frank Sly, the retiring Governor, on or about January 26. Lady Butler and her elder daughter will go out to Nagpur in the late autumn. Sir Montagu Butler has appointed Major T. S. Paterson, 19th Lancers, to be his private secretary.

DECORATIONS.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Medal of the British Empire Order (Civil Division) to the following members of Khartoum Province Police in recognition of the gallantry displayed by them during the recent disturbances.

Sol. Ibrahim Negib.
Shawish Jak Taha.
Nafar Mohammed Abdulla Mohammed.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A notification appears in the *London Gazette* to the effect that the King has given orders for the following appointments to the Order of the British Empire (to be dated February 20, 1924) :—

To be Honorary Knights Commanders of the Military Division.—General Sir Tej Shumshere Jung, Bahadur Rana, K.C.I.E., Nepalese Army; and Lieutenant-General Kaiser Shumshere Jung, Bahadur Rana, Nepalese Army. This is substituted for the notice in the *Gazette* of April 15, 1924, relating to the Civil Division of the Order.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1925.

DELHI AND THE INDIAN STATES.

The question of the relations between the Indian States and the Government at Delhi is forcing itself rapidly into prominence. On one side there is the central Executive, which deals directly with the States and exercises control over some of their activities, but which is itself coming more and more under the influence of the new representative institutions of British India. On the other side are the States, which refuse -quite rightly—to accept British India as their suzerain, or to allow the lawyers and journalists of Calcutta or Madras any voice whatever in their affairs. The conflict is already real, and may at any time become serious. If anyone supposes that the authorities at Delhi can for long keep the two sets of functions separate, he need only glance at the map of India, with the conventional yellow patches scattered through the red. Even assuming that the brain at the centre could be divided into two lobes working independently of each other, an assumption which will commend itself to few psychologists, there is a recurring clash of interests, and not merely of sentiment, which calls for the interposition of an impartial authority, rather than one which is bound to be drawn more and more to one side. The Customs tariff furnishes an obvious example of the divergence of interests. The States are probably as protectionist as British India, but they want protection against British India, which wants protection against Europe. Their subjects are, in fact, paying high duties to help the steel industry in Bihar, which itself threatens their own modest ventures in the same direction. A less familiar, but not less serious, example is furnished by the railways. The Central Indian States, for instance, have hitherto been served by three great railway companies. They have not been served too well in the past, but they have had the assurance that the companies would not discriminate against their interests. The railways in question are now coming under official management, and there is no such assurance for the future. The officials will, of course, try to be fair, but they will be subjected to the daily pressure of the politicians, and efforts to ease the political situation in Delhi may have a disastrous reaction on the people of Gwalior or Indore. In all such cases, and there are many others, an impartial authority is needed to decide between Delhi and the States. Delhi, as a party, is disqualified, reference to Whitehall is now out of the question, and what is wanted is some machinery for adjustment in India itself.

The change was foreseen by the framers of the Reforms Report, and their proposals went, on paper, some way towards meeting the need. In accordance with them, the States are now being severed from the provinces to which some of them were attached for administrative purposes, and this is a definite gain. The Chamber of Princes is in being, and apparently developing a certain amount of energy, though the abstention of important States still prevents it from speaking for the Princes as a whole. The Reformers' hope that difficulties could be adjusted by joint deliberations between the Chamber of Princes and the Council of State has, on the other hand, not been realised, nor is it likely to be. The Council of State, as it now exists, is a very different body from the rather shadowy entity which was designed to meet so many difficulties, and in existing circumstances there would be no advantage in joint deliberation with the weaker, if the wiser, half of the central legislature, even if the Princes should agree to participate in such discussions. Nor can we find any practical solution of the problem in the columns of our Indian contemporaries. Many of them talk lightly of a federated India, comprising both Provinces and States, but they show little appreciation of the obstacles in the way. Federation is a worthy ideal, but a distant one, and what is wanted now is some practical arrangement on the basis of which a federal structure may gradually develop. The only other suggestion we have noticed is that the portfolio of political affairs, which, by time-honoured usage, is held by the Viceroy, should be transferred to some member of his Council, who should act as the watchdog for the States. We doubt whether this change would be of much use. The Viceroy is probably a better watchdog than anyone else would be, and already the Council is far too much a patchwork of races, religions, and interests to be really efficient in the exercise of its primary function as the guide of British India on the uphill path leading to democratic self-government. To add one more purely departmental member would weaken it further, and would do little to achieve the object in view.

By a process of exhaustion, then, we are led to the position taken up by Mr. F. H. Brown in the current number of the *Empire Review*, that a special inquiry should now be directed to the whole question of the relations between British India and the States, between an aggregate of provinces on the road to self-government and a body of Princes whose existing privileges, rights, and dignities have been guaranteed as inviolate and inviolable. We know, of course, that India is sick of Commissions, but that fact is due very largely to the unfortunate practice of filling them with representatives already committed to particular views, and in the inquiry now suggested there should be nothing of the kind. Obviously, it should be initiated from Westminster, not from Delhi, and should be paid for by Parliament, while the three, or possibly five, members should constitute an impartial tribunal, committed to no interest other than that of the Empire as a whole, and charged with the task of meeting present difficulties by methods which shall be consistent with, and as far as possible shall promote, the ultimate bringing together of States and Provinces as a unit of the Empire. The task will not be easy, but the men to grapple with it can be found, if this condition is kept steadily in view. Those of us who can recall the value of the services rendered on Royal Commissions by King Edward VII. when Prince of Wales, will hope that the House of Windsor may be directly represented in any form of inquiry that may be decided on, but in any case the business is one for gentlemen—men of large views, with no axes to grind, able to appreciate the eager strivings of what is best in the new India, but at the same time not devoid of sympathy with the old. Their task, as we have just said, will not be easy, but there is work to be done, and the longer it is postponed the harder will it be.

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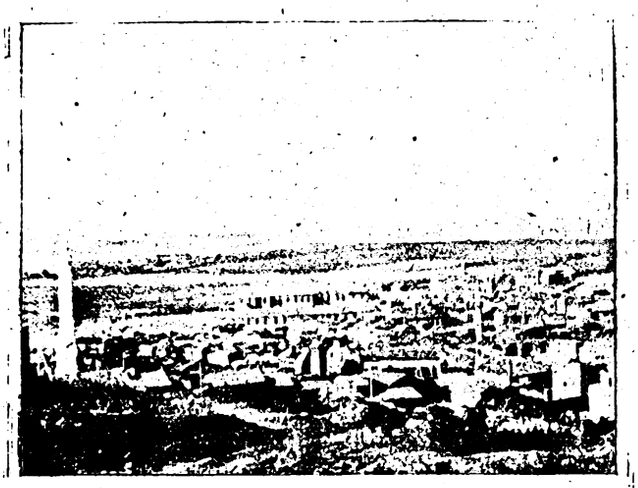
ANGORA: CITY OF PREJUDICE.

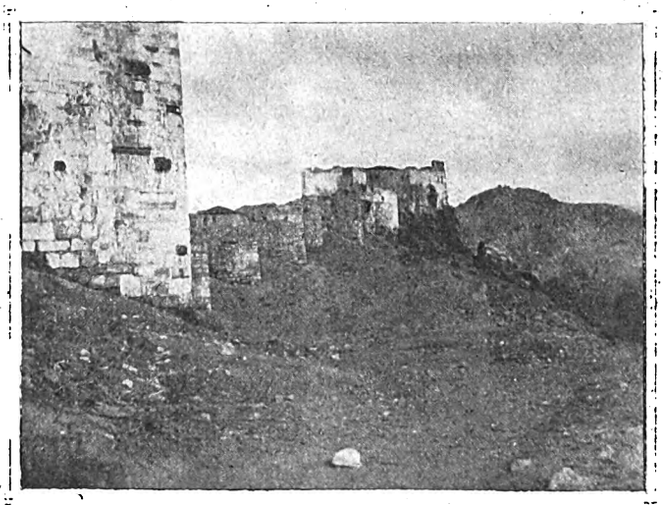
In Constantinople to contemplate a visit to Angora challenges at once commiseration, not unmixed with some of the respect felt for those who undertake hazardous enterprises. The prejudice against the new capital of Turkey is strong. A Wagon-Lits coach at Haidar Pasha Railway Station, on the Asiatic side of Constantinople's broad waterway, seemed to clash with preconceived ideas of an original or rash venture, and



Angora: New Town from the Citadel.

only a pampered traveller can have much fault to find with the conditions under which the journey to Angora is at present undertaken. True, it must be one of the slowest on record for a line of easy gradients. Whether because the track is ill-laid, the bridges and culverts insecure, or the new German locomotive merely too heavy for its work, the fact remains that the train after leaving the double-line section of Constantinople's Asiatic suburb fixes its pace by its capacity up the worst "bank," and takes down-gradients and long level stretches with an exasperating uniformity, thus keeping at a twenty-four hours' distance from Constantinople, the new capital, which might otherwise be reached in ten hours.

Comparisons among capitals are obvious. Angora belongs to a category by itself. Regarded as a town it is of necessity in a transition stage. Blessed above many in the magnificence of its situation—at the far end of a long narrow plain on a high hill rising gradually from the south-west, and falling more abruptly on the other side, with high mountains beyond—it is calculated to rouse the enthusiasm of any Western town-planner, as it has in the ages past attracted the attention of those whose first concern was security. Military considerations have prompted the Turk to make it the capital of the new republic, for inaccessibility is in his eyes Angora's chief asset. As an afterthought he is trying to justify the selection by making something of it as a town. The present Vali has elaborated a scheme for the future development of the capital, but, unless provision is made for an extensive programme of rebuilding, the final results are likely to prove of a patchwork description. The main hill of Angora is crowned by a dilapidated fortress of Turkish times, built or repaired with a lavish use of Roman columns and capitals let in promiscuously throughout the length of the walls. Within the fortress, and nestling immediately below it at the south-western end, is the old town. On the western flank of the Citadel hill was the Armenian quarter, now a heap of ruins, with the many-domed church alone standing, but sacked and derelict. A single thoroughfare leads from the "Citadel" to the present centre of gravity of the town, skirting the former Armenian quarter; it is paved in the approved style of Near Eastern towns, with substantial stone sets placed in position without much attention having been paid to the foundation on which they happened to rest. Nevertheless, there are worse stretches of road in some of the Balkan capitals, and in none a better one than the main road which leads from the station to the town. It is where the slopes of the main hill widen out that Angora will seek extension. As the Station Road, after a short straight course over the plain, begins to climb the foot-hill it has the new Parliament Building on its left, and immediately opposite is rising a new hotel of sufficient proportions to remove ultimately from the town the reproach of a complete lack of modern hotel accommodation. The two buildings that do duty to-day as hotels are certainly primitive in character. Both are clean, but a shortage of rooms compels visitors to be housed for the most part in couples, and, apart from a modest breakfast, meals have to be obtained elsewhere. It is here that "Fresco's" comes to the rescue—a large restaurant which caters for the foreign community of Angora, and for a good many of its Turkish visitors, while a conscientious and well-meaning orchestra does its best to make up for the lack of other forms of entertainment or relaxation in the new capital. New roads in good condition—a luxury unknown to more than one Balkan capital—serve as an encouragement to private enterprise in building, with the result that the growth of villa residences is beginning to outstrip the State provision of Government offices. It is unnecessary to probe deeply into the subject of public works and the various services that loom large in the amenities of modern life elsewhere. The capital of new Turkey is not going to be built in a day. It does not claim to be a health resort; a few weeks ago, indeed, it was inclined to extend a sincere welcome to the first signs of the approach of winter weather as a respite from a visitation of malaria. For the rest, it exists primarily for



Angora: The Fortress Walls.

the convenience of the Turks. In their present frame of mind they are not allowing themselves to be much exercised by possible differences between what is good enough for them and that with which custom has familiarised the foreigner from the West; but it would be a mistake to imagine that they are not conscious of the shortcomings of Angora as a capital. It is, however, a case of not only having made their bed, but also of having taken it up and walked with it to the farthest point away from Constantinople that

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was available. The Turks, therefore, can be relied upon to sleep in the bed, at least for the present, even if the operation calls at times for a rather grim setting of teeth to carry it through.

The Angora experiment need evoke no regret outside Turkey. Prejudice against it in the foreign mind is counter-balanced by prejudice on the part of the Turk against the foreigner and places that bear his impress. Further acquaintance with the town and a sense of proportion tend to modify the former, and there seems to be no reason why the latter should not ultimately be eliminated.

Angora: Where the goats come from.

In Angora the Turk is finding time for reflection. Looking back over the recent history of the country, no one will deny him the right to be dissatisfied with things as they were under the old régime. He was out for change, and in the circumstances the more drastic it should be the more it promised to commend itself to him. The proper antithesis to despotism is constitutional government; and it is at least arguable that, if the Turks had considered that anything constitutional was to be obtained from the House of Othman, there might still be a monarchy in Turkey. To secure constitutionalism, it seemed to them necessary to resort to republicanism, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that they were the readier to acquiesce in a republic, because they were persuaded that it was essential to constitutionalism. Whether the reflection for which Angora is providing an opportunity will convince them that a republic and constitutionalism are not invariably synonymous must for the present be left an open question; but it is at least significant that the parliamentary Opposition in new Turkey is laying more and more stress on what it regards as encroachments upon constitutional privileges.

Again, it is hardly a matter for wonder that the Turk came to regard the foreigner as responsible for all his ills. The best of us is rarely inclined to attribute the buffets of an outrageous fortune to his own sins or shortcomings. Defeat in a fair and square war was one thing, and the Turks made no attempt to challenge the verdict of their struggle with the Allies. For what has happened since, the responsibility does not lie solely with Turkey. No one personally unacquainted with conditions in the Near East can appreciate the effect upon the Turks of the employment of the Greeks as the Allies' instrument for exacting from Turkey the penalties of defeat. The harshest terms imposed directly by the Western Powers would have been accepted with fatalistic submission; the sight of the Greeks as agents of their humiliation outraged the Turks' sense of justice and fair play, and drove them to risk everything in a desperate venture. How it succeeded is recent history. The defeat of the Greeks raised the Turkish people from the depths of despair to the pinnacle of self-conceit. From the remoteness of Angora the Allied world appeared in the first flush of victory to have been successfully trampled upon for all time. New Turkey had won for herself a clean slate, and who was there to prevent her from writing upon it what she willed? It called for older and wiser heads than the Turks could muster to be proof against the intoxicating effects of their triumph. No counsels of moderation could reach the Anatolian fastness. Constantinople was wholly identified by the successful "insurgents" with the hated Allies, and any Turk who hesitated to look at the future exclusively through Angora's spectacles was suspect. It was, indeed, difficult for a Turk to attempt the defence of the Allies in the face of his compatriot's chauvinism. The Allied Occupation of Constantinople had given too many causes for pointing the finger of scorn at the Allies to every Turk with the most superficial knowledge of the pretensions of Western civilisation. There is no need to labour the point; for even if it had not been so, the achievements of Angora had so completely put the subservience of European Turkey in the wrong that there was no alternative for the latter to keeping its mouth shut. The appetite for freedom grew with each fresh indulgence in the luxury. So elated was Angora with its success that it cared not whether European Turkey was with it or against it. From this stage it was an easy step to a virtual declaration of war on Constantinople, inasmuch as in so doing shrewd blows could be dealt at the foreigners, who were supposed to be battening on the city.

The antagonism between Angora and Constantinople is, however, capable of being exaggerated.

A Horse Fair in Angora.

It is not easy, in the mass of rules and regulations with which the daily life of the latter has been hedged about, to tell whether any one set will really be fatal to commerce or whether it merely represents a policy of pin-pricks The accumulative effect has undoubtedly been to stir up among the Turks of Constantinople a strong hatred of Angora, as is evidenced by the consistent and not always measured hostility of the Press of the city.

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On the other hand, Constantinople has its score of Deputies representing it at the capital, among them Fethi Bey, the present Prime Minister, and, if the elections have been impartially conducted, they will be able to contend that they are unlikely to identify themselves with a régime that is deliberately hostile to the interests of their constituents. It will probably not be wide of the mark to suppose that in matters economic, as in matters political and international, Angora is profiting by its opportunities for reflection, and is learning, to the manifest benefit of Constantinople and of Turkey as a whole, that it is folly to kill the goose that lays the golden egg

H. T. MONTAGUE BELL.

CONDITIONS IN THE BALKANS.

At a meeting of the Near and Middle East Association held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Cobham, at 14, Hans Crescent, on January 8, an admirable summary of present-day conditions in the Balkans was given by Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., who, with Lady Boyle, has recently completed a three months' tour in the Peninsula. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen was in the chair, and among those present were:—the Swedish Minister, the Albanian Minister, representatives of the German Embassy, and of the Polish, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Egyptian, and Afghan Legations, Viscountess Dupplin, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, the Dowager Countess of Carnarvon, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Lady Connolly, Lady Spriggs, Sir Armine Dew, Archdeacon Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, and Mr. Alex Devine.

Dealing first with Albania, Sir Edward Boyle pointed out that, like other Balkan States, Albania in its turn was suffering from too much politics, too much violence, and outside interference. Italy and Yugoslavia, in this connection, had assumed the rôle of Austria-Hungary and Russia in pre-War days, and the Albanians had divided themselves into pro-Italians and pro-Serbs. The differences between the parties in Albania, he was convinced, were not religious. There had certainly been something sinister in the preparations for the recent rebellion; but Italy had decided to turn a blind eye to what had happened. Everything pointed to the Albanians' need for unity, and he hoped that it would yet be possible for the factions represented by Ahmed Bey Zogu and Mgr. Fan Noli to come together. In regard to Greece, Sir Edward Boyle gave a brief sketch of the political situation, which he did not regard as necessarily stable, and went on to discuss the refugee problem. Twenty-five per cent. of the refugees would still be under canvas this winter, and it seemed impossible that people suffering the privations and hardships that they were called upon to endure should ever be able to prove of much advantage, industrially or in agriculture, to the country. Bulgaria's troubles, he said, were much in evidence. Bolshevists, the menace from the Macedonians on the one hand and from Serbia on the other, refugees from Macedonia and Thrace, and finally the Treaty obligations. He was of opinion that the Government would shortly be reconstituted. The situation in Yugoslavia Sir E. Boyle considered more dangerous than anywhere. The difficulties centred in relations with Italy, for neither side seemed to have any faith in the stability of the recent pacts; in the Serb-Croatian dispute, and he viewed the developments in regard to the Raditch party with grave misgiving; and in Montenegro. He hoped that the Yugoslav Government would appreciate the need for appeasing the Montenegrins, a goal that could be reached by some measure of local autonomy under Montenegrin officials, by undertaking public works in the country and opening up its communications. In Yugoslavia as a whole trade was good. What was necessary for its adequate development was internal peace. Finally, there was the crux of Macedonia; here the solution which would be accepted was federal autonomy within Yugoslavia.

A paper on the Serajevo Murder was read by Miss Durham, and Sir Maurice de Bunsen spoke of conditions in Austria-Hungary in 1913-14, at the time when he was Ambassador in Vienna.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on December 29, at the age of 69, of Colonel Edward William Herbert, C.B., of Orleton Hall, Wellington, Shropshire. He went through the whole of the Sudan campaign of 1884, and later held a staff appointment in Cyprus.

Major-General Joseph Barnard Smith died at Hampstead on January 2, at the age of eighty-five. He was commissioned to the Indian Army in 1856, and served until 1898. His war services were both on the North-West and the North-East Frontiers. He went through the second Afghan war.

The death occurred last week of Dr. Lilias Hamilton, whose name was associated mainly with Afghanistan in the régime of the Ameer Abdur Rahman, to whom she acted as Court Physician. To the hospital which she opened at Kabul all sorts of representatives of the tribes of the Frontier and the Border used to come.

The death is announced from Cairo of Mr. Stewart Herbert Capper, a member of the European Department of the Ministry of the Interior, and formerly Professor of Architecture at the McGill and Manchester Universities. Mr. Capper did very valuable work in the Intelligence Department in Egypt during and after the War.

The name of Sir William Garstin, whose death occurred last week, will always be linked up with the regeneration of Egypt, for the prosperity of which country he did so much. Before going to Egypt he had served, during the seventies, with the Indian Public Works Department. It was in 1885 that he began his irrigation work on the Nile. In 1892 his connection with the Indian service officially ended, and he was appointed Inspector-General of Irrigation in Egypt. Subsequently he became Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, and, in 1904, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works. He retired in 1908, but retained his connection with the land he had served so well as a Director of the Suez Canal.

It is difficult to value the work of this engineer of the Nile. Perhaps Lord Cromer's words that Sir William "had raised himself to the rank of the greatest hydraulic engineer in this or any other country," sum up his services as well as any. Whole areas of Egyptian and Sudanese lands that were profitless he reclaimed: the White Nile was cleared; the Assiout Barrage and the Assouan Reservoir were built. His achievements were indeed invaluable; and the Egyptian Government did what it could to recognise them when, in 1905, it made him a gift of £15,000.

At the memorial service, which was held at St. Peter's Church, on January 12, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian *Chargé d'Affaires* in London, attended, and he also instructed his secretary to lay a wreath on the coffin.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE OCEAN OF STORY" AGAIN.

"THE OCEAN OF STORY: BEING C. H. TAWNEY'S TRANSLATION OF SANADEVA'S KATHA SARIT SAGARA (OR OCEAN OF STREAMS OF STORY)." Edited by N. M. Penzer. In ten volumes. Vol. II. With a Foreword by Sir George Grierson. (London: C. J. Sawyer, Ltd. 42s. Privately printed for subscribers only.)

It is only very recently that we drew our readers' special attention to the first volume of this entrancing book. Volume II. is now in our hands. We are now away from all the introductions, and have definitely started our voyage over the "Ocean." Almost all the stories in this volume are excellent, but we would select the long tales about Vidushaka and about the Golden City as the best of all. How William Morris would have rejoiced in them! We like King Adityasena's horse, which "seemed with fearless eye to measure the earth, as if thinking: 'What shall be the limit of my speed?'" It carried the king so fast and far that all trace of him was lost, and when it "happened to stand still" the king found himself in an impassable forest "haunted by horrible lions." However, the horse "was full of regret—for excellent horses are divine beings," and forthwith set to work to undo the mischief he had done, landing his master, however, in a string of adventures.

Nearly nine centuries ago these splendid tales were told by a master of his art. They have been Englished by an ideal translator, the late Mr. C. H. Tawney, and are now given to us with revision and quantities of most interesting notes by Mr. Penzer, whose learning sits easily on him, but is none the less encyclopædic, and the whole is produced in a most satisfactory and beautiful form at a price very reasonable considering the beauty of the book.

The edition is limited. If any sets are still available, they should be applied for at once. Vol. III. is already in the Press, and Vol. IV. is nearly ready to follow. C. S. W.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

"INDIA OF TO-DAY, VOL. VII., INDIAN RAILWAYS." By K. V. Iyer. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

Mr. Iyer has produced a creditable account of the Indian railway system as it exists to-day, with sufficient references to reports and other works to put the reader on the track of its history. The treatment is, very properly, descriptive rather than critical, and, where opinions are offered on controversial topics, they are, as a rule, eminently reasonable. Sufficient figures are given to make the booklet useful to serious students, and they are, on the whole, presented in convenient form, but a protest must be entered against the statistical chart on p. 32. A glance at it shows that the year 1912-13 was marked by some tremendous cataclysm, when gross earnings fell suddenly to about a quarter of the normal. One seeks in vain for a record of war, pestilence, or famine, but the true explanation can be disinterred from an appendix, which allows the expert to see that the "year" in question consisted of three months only. That chart should certainly be relegated to some chamber of statistical horrors, but the rest of the booklet can be recommended with confidence.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"'The New Past' and Other Essays on the Development of Civilisation." By J. H. Breasted, etc. Edited by E. H. Carter M.A. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 5s. net.)

"Crop Production in India." By Albert Howard, C.I.E., M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d.)

"Ethics in India." By E. Washburn Hopkins, Ph.D., LL.D. (London: Humphrey Milford. 14s. net.)

BRITISH MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS.

The British Museum has recently acquired a number of ancient Egyptian amulets and some early seals from Iraq, also some rare coins from Cyprus and Asia Minor. The amulets were secured at the sale of the collection of Captain Richard Bethell. The objects for the Babylonian Department were bought by the Trustees of the Museum very cheaply; and the Coins Department received its Cyprian coins from a resident of that island.

QUARANTINE BOARD OF ALEXANDRIA.

It has been decided to appoint Major G. P. Thomson, until recently Inspector of the Public Health Department, President of the International Quarantine Board of Alexandria. The post has been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Alexander Granville a year ago, owing to the refusal of the Government of Zaghloul Pasha to appoint an Englishman on the ground that an Egyptian should now fill the post.

A CYPRUS MESSAGE.

We have received the following message from the Greek Press Bureau, Limassol:—"New elections to the National Council are finished. Councillors express confidence that the last Cyprus appeal to Parliament will meet with kind attention."

Sheikh Mohamed Hassanein, formerly a member of the Superior Council of the University of Al Azhar in Cairo, died on January 5. He was the father of Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the well-known Egyptian explorer, whose imminent departure for London to take up his new appointment as First Secretary in the Egyptian Legation has thus been delayed.

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Tuesday Morning.

Lloyds Bank's Profits.

The dividend statement of Lloyds Bank for 1924 shows a marked expansion in profits, which total £2,468,934, as compared with £2,047,934 for 1923 and £2,068,875 for 1922. In this respect the experience of Lloyds Bank is typical of that of the other leading banks, and it may be regarded as reflecting the improvement in trade which took place in the latter half of last year. The dividends of the banks are unchanged, that of Lloyds being 16⅔ per cent., while those of Westminster Bank are again maintained at 20 per cent. in respect of the £20 shares and 12½ per cent. (the maximum) in respect of the £1 shares.

Japan and Roumanian Oil.

In recent months various rumours have been forthcoming as to Japanese efforts to obtain some participation in the oilfields in various countries, though how far the rumours have been accurate or not it is impossible to say. It is, however, of interest to record the fact that a Japanese delegation is at present in Roumania, and that while it will occupy itself, it is understood, with the economic relations between the two countries generally, its main concern will be the question of oil supplies. One can well appreciate Japan's desire to be free from dependence on one source for this vital fuel, and it may be that a successful move in Roumania will be the prelude to other departures in the Near East.

Suez Canal Dues.

It is excellent hearing that the Suez Canal Company has decided to reduce the transit dues by 25 centimes as from April 1 next, making the dues for loaded ships 7.25 francs and for ships in ballast 4.75 francs per ton. The rates are, of course, still considerably above the 1914 level, when the dues for loaded ships were 6.25 francs. For more than three years from the commencement of 1917 the rate was 8.50 francs, and from that time there have been gradual reductions, the last being in January, 1924, when the rate was reduced from 7.75 francs to 7.50 francs.

Automatic Telephones for Cairo.

A contract for the installation of an automatic telephone exchange in Cairo has been given to the Associated British Manufacturers (Egypt), Ltd. The cost is estimated at £50,000, and the materials will be supplied by Siemens Bros., of Woolwich.

Indian Railway Results.

Recent reports of the Indian railways have been uniformly favourable, disclosing increasing receipts and a declining ratio of expenditure. The report of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Co. for the half-year to September 30, which has just been issued, illustrates this tendency. The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 6,60,27,739, as compared with Rs. 5,76,86,792 for the corresponding period of 1923, while the expenditure was Rs. 4,70,21,844, as against Rs. 4,33,76,739 for the same period, there being thus an increase of Rs. 83,40,947 in receipts and one of only Rs. 36,45,105 in expenditure. The net revenue amounted to Rs. 1,90,05,895, as compared with Rs. 1,43,10,053 for the corresponding six months of 1923, and there is a surplus of Rs. 5,58,281.

Trade with Czecho-Slovakia.

According to the *Narodni List* the Czecho-Slovak Government has put before the National Assembly a Bill empowering the reduction of import duties on machinery not manufactured in the country. The reduced duty will amount to the original duty multiplied by a co-efficient of 4, whereas the duty paid up till now has been multiplied by a co-efficient of 16 to 25. The result of thus reducing the co-efficients of import duties would probably be a reduction in the price at which such machinery could be sold in Czecho-Slovakia. It is the view of the British Commercial Secretary at Prague that the first effect of the measure will be to increase widely a market for imported machinery, and he suggests that British firms should take every possible opportunity to bring their products before the notice of Czecho-Slovak manufacturers, more particularly at the present time, when apparently deliveries from Germany are subject to delay and uncertainty. As regards agricultural machinery, he states that there are at present possibilities for the sale of binders.

The Late Sir William Garstin.

The death of Sir William Garstin will occasion widespread regret, and in Anglo-Egyptian circles in particular there will be universal sorrow at the loss of one who was justly entitled to be regarded as one of the makers of modern Egypt. One of the Indian officials who was lent to Egypt, his period there lasted for twenty-three years, and, among the principal works carried out under him were the Assiout Barrage and the Aswan Dam. His knowledge of the problems of Egypt in regard to irrigation was unsurpassed, and the opportunity was his of utilising his knowledge to the benefit of the country to such an extent that he may, indeed, be said to have carved out for himself an abiding place in the history of Egypt.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT IN TURKEY.

At a meeting of the Anglo-Turkish Society, held on January 7, at Anderton's Hotel, London, Captain E. H. Griffin, D.S.O., M.C., in the chair, a report was read by the hon. secretary, Mr. Arthur Field, on "Communications and Transport in Turkey." The paper referred to the difficulty experienced in obtaining exact figures relative to railway development in Turkey, and pointed out that a recent contribution to the subject had been made in an article in *The Times* of December 30, from which the following passage was quoted:—

"These words (the reference is to military considerations) go very far towards explaining the zeal with which the Cabinet is urging on the construction of the Samsoun-Sivas-Angora Railway. £T9,500,000 (about £1,100,000) was voted for the line during the current year, and I was officially informed that £T11,000,000 is to be spent during the financial year 1925-26. This is no small proportion of the £T17,500,000 allocated to the Ministry of Public Works in the draft Budget which was distributed the other day to the members of the Assembly. 4,000 workmen, I was further informed, are now employed on the line; and, though the track has only been laid as far as the 27th kilometre stone (not 17 miles) from Angora, a large proportion of the rails has now been bought, much of the engineering has been done, and the coming year will see a great advance of the track. But if strategic considerations are helping to urge on the building of this line, the zeal for railway construction should not be attributed solely to this cause. There have been several indications lately that Turkey is genuinely concerned to mind her own business, and (not troubling herself with the affairs of her neighbours more than is absolutely necessary in the national interests) to bend her energies to the work of internal reconstruction and development. . . . If we except the sums devoted to the Army, Navy, public security, and gendarmerie—in themselves a shield behind which the people is to be free to work—we see that some of the largest votes are being given to the three Ministries of Education, Agriculture, and Public Works, the importance of which has again and again been preached by the President and by the Cabinet. Education is to receive a grant of nearly £T8,000,000; Public Works, as we have already seen, will swallow up £T17,500,000, and nearer six than five millions will be devoted to Agriculture."

The two standard-gauge lines—Samsoun to Sivas, and Angora to Moussakeni (a station on the former) are financially assured by the law of March 23, 1924, allotting a credit of £T65,000,000 (£8,000,000) for a period of five years, and it is anticipated that the two lines will be finished in 1929. Work is also in hand on the construction of a narrow-gauge line from Arghana to Arada, a station on the Baghdad Railway west of Nisibin, designed to assist the copper mines at Arghana. A number of short, narrow-gauge lines connecting the Black Sea ports with their immediate interior is contemplated, and one concession has already been granted to a Turkish company for a line from Samsoun to Bafra. The paper went on to speak of the Turkish desire to enlist foreign capital for the development of Asia Minor, with special reference to its mineral wealth. In this connection the speaker referred to a "petroliferous belt" giving on to the Mediterranean, round the Gulf of Alexandretta, but it did not appear that any definite steps had been taken to establish the existence of oil in this region. In a passage on ports in Turkey and the handicap suffered from the lack of modern facilities, reference was made to the efforts now being put forward to develop Youmountalik, on the Gulf of Alexandretta, as an offset to the continued occupation of Alexandretta by France. Information regarding foreign railway concessions in Turkey was also given. Among those who took part in the discussion were Dr. Henri M. Léon and Mr. Arnold Lupton.

STEAUA ROMANA PRODUCTION.

Steaua Romana (British) Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Co., Bucharest, for December was 27,370 tons, an increase of 3,000 tons on November production.

The production for 1924 was approximately 275,382 tons, as compared with 222,735 tons in 1923, an increase of 52,647 tons. This is the highest production obtained by the company from its own fields since 1918, and is exclusive of about 10,000 tons received in payment of royalties on drilling contracts carried out for other companies.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Westminster Bank Dividend.

The directors of Westminster Bank, Ltd., have declared a final dividend of 10 per cent. in respect of the £20 shares, making 20 per cent. for the year; and a final dividend of 6¼ per cent. on the £1 shares, making the maximum of 12½ per cent. for the year. The dividends will be payable (less income-tax) on February 2.

Dacia Romano.—The production for December amounted to 295 tons.

Sir Charles Macara celebrated his eightieth birthday on January 11. He has received congratulations from all parts of the world.

The Persian Parliament has sanctioned the exemption from Customs duties for a period of ten years of agricultural and technical machinery accessories, with certain exceptions.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON CROPS AND PRICES.

An Uncertain Outlook.

BY JOHN A. TODD, B.L.

Egyptian cotton has passed through many vicissitudes in its time, but it would be hard to equal the history of the last two years. In the summer of last year the nominal quotations in Liverpool showed Egyptian actually at a lower price than American, while Uppers were above Sakel! To-day the premium of Egyptian over American is over 130 per cent., while Sakel stands at 54 per cent. above Uppers. The events which have led to these extraordinary fluctuations are well worth recalling.

In the first place, it is necessary to provide a background showing, first, the modern history of the crop, and, second, what may be regarded as the normal conditions of relative price. The accompanying table provides the necessary data for this history-giving area, crop and yield for both American and Egyptian, with the season's average prices in each case and the premium of Egyptian over American. (See table below.)

The main facts of the history may be briefly outlined as follows:—Prior to the War both crops were increasing on the whole steadily in total quantity, but this was only being secured by the rapid extension of the acreage, and the yield per acre was, on the whole, falling steadily. This culminated in the very serious crop failure of 1909 in both countries. In the case of the American crop this proved to be more or less an accident, for the yields after that date up till 1914 were almost as high as they had been before 1909. From about 1914, however, a steady decline set in during the war years, followed by an isolated recovery in 1920. This, again, however, was succeeded by the most calamitous failure of all in 1921, which proved to be the first of a series of three exceedingly bad years. It appears now that 1924 is again almost certain to mark a definite recovery, but not to anything like the figures of pre-war years, nor even of 1920. The fact is that the long-expected arrival of the boll-weevil in the Atlantic States has permanently reduced the maximum probable yield of the American crop, and the comparatively good yield of 1924 is due to the fact that the weather during the summer proved extraordinarily unfavourable to the weevil. Unfortunately it was also not good for the crop, but, thanks to an extraordinary combination of good fortune the weather throughout the whole of the picking season has been almost miraculously favourable to the saving of the crop, and that at a stage when it was too late for the weevil to do much harm.

In the case of the Egyptian crop, however, though a marked recovery was made from 1909 till 1913, this again gave way to a declining yield, which in 1916 carried the average actually below 1909. Since then, however, the average yield seems to have become more stable at a figure of something like 350 lbs. per acre.

So much for the supply side of the equation. On the demand side developments have been almost equally abnormal. Before 1909 the rela-

AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN COTTON CROPS AND PRICES.

Season.	American.			Egyptian.				Per cent. Egyptian on American.	Season's average prices.		
	Area.	Crop.		Area.	Crop.				Liverpool spot.		
	000's acres.	000's running bales.	lbs. per acre.	000's feddans.	000's kantars.	5lb. per feddan.	000's 500lb. bales.		American middling.	Egyptian F.G.F. brown.	Prem. per cent.
									d. per lb.	d. per lb.	
1899-1900	24,275	9,508	138·8	1,153	6,510	5·64	1,302	13·8	4·87	6·81	40
1900-01	25,758	10,246	194·4	1,230	5,435	4·42	1,087	10·6	5·16	6·87	33
1901-02	27,220	9,749	170·0	1,250	6,370	5·10	1,274	13·0	4·78	6·31	31
1902-03	27,114	10,784	187·3	1,276	5,839	4·58	1,168	10·8	5·46	8·44	55
1903-04	28,017	10,016	174·3	1,333	6,509	4·88	1,302	13·0	6·94	8·56	23
1904-05	30,054	13,697	205·9	1,437	6,313	4·39	1,263	9·2	4·91	7·37	52
1905-06	26,117	10,726	186·6	1,567	5,960	3·80	1,192	11·1	5·95	9·25	55
1906-07	31,374	13,305	202·5	1,506	6,949	4·61	1,390	10·4	6·38	10·37	63
1907-08	31,311	11,326	179·1	1,603	7,235	4·51	1,447	12·8	6·19	8·81	43
1908-09	32,444	13,432	194·9	1,640	6,751	4·12	1,350	10·0	5·50	8·44	53
1909-10	32,044	10,386	154·3	1,597	5,001	3·13	1,000	9·6	7·86	13·12	67
1910-11	32,403	11,966	170·7	1,643	7,574	4·57	1,515	12·6	7·84	10·75	35
1911-12	36,045	16,109	207·7	1,711	7,424	4·34	1,485	9·2	6·09	9·56	57
1912-13	34,283	14,091	190·9	1,722	7,533	4·37	1,506	10·7	6·76	9·79	46
1913-14	37,089	14,614	182·0	1,723	7,684	4·46	1,537	10·7	7 26	9·45	30
1914-15	36,832	16,738	209·2	1,755	6,490	3·70	1,298	7·8	5·22	7·34	40
1915-16	31,412	12,013	170·3	1 186	4,806	4·06	961	8·0	7 51	10·42	39
1916-17	34,985	12,664	156·6	1 656	5,111	3·10	1,022	8·0	12·33	21.56 Sakel	75
1917-18	33,841	12,345	159·7	1,677	6,308	3·75	1,262	10·2	21·68	30·97	43
1918-19	36,008	12,817	159·6	1,316	4,821	3·66	964	7·6	19·73	27·85	41
1919-20	33,566	11,921	161·5	1,574	5,572	3·54	1,114	9·3	25·31	60·34	139
1920-21	35,878	13,700	178·4	1 828	6,030*	3·30	1,206	8·8	11·89	30·24	154
1921-22	30,509	8,360	124·5	1,292	4,858*	3·76	972	11·6	11·37	19·75	74
1922-23	33,036	10,320	141·5	1 801	6,213*	3·45	1,243	12·0	14·92	17·29	16
1923-24	37,123	10,840	130·6	1,588† / 1,800‡	6,531	4·11† / 3·62‡	1,306	12·1	17·66	21·55	22
1924-25	40,115	14,000	157·8	1,788† / 2,000‡	6,380† / 7,000‡	3·57† / 3·50‡	1,276 / 1,400	9·1 / 10·0	—	—	—

* Estimated actual growth, arrivals in those years being unsteady owing to the large carry-over up-country.
† Government estimates. ‡ Private estimates.

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tive price of Egyptian had been rising, on the whole, steadily, due to the improved quality of fabrics that could be produced from Egyptian owing to the development of technical processes such as mercerising, and the general increase in the demand for these fine fabrics. The crop failure of 1909, however, carried these developments to extremes, for the premium on Egyptian cotton at one time went to about 100 per cent. This extraordinary appreciation of Egyptian gave the cotton world their first lesson in the possibilities of substitution of the finer American varieties for Egyptian, which had until then been regarded as almost impossible. The result was that the high prices of 1909-10 were followed by a very sharp reaction, which carried the premium down to 35 per cent. for the next season, or barely half of the previous year's average figure.

During the War there were again violent fluctuations; in 1916-17, for example, the season's premium averaged 75 per cent.; but the really dramatic development came after the War, when in 1919 the sudden expansion of the demand in America for Egyptian cotton for tyre fabric resulted in a natural corner in Alexandria, which, combined with the general rise of prices of all sorts in that memorable year of the post-War boom, sent Egyptian prices up to a premium of 211 per cent. This again had its natural effect. At such prices the tyre fabric makers were forced to experiment in the substitution of shorter cotton in tyre yarns, which until then they had absolutely declined to consider, and they very soon began to find that, except for the best tyres, a much lower grade of cotton would serve perfectly well. On top of this came the awful slump due to deflation in 1920, and the expensive goods made from Egyptian cotton naturally suffered most severely in the period of universal depression which followed. This time, however, the reaction was carried to an extent which until then would have been universally regarded as impossible; indeed it would be hard to find a precedent for what actually happened. That Egyptian cotton should sell for less than American is a thing as difficult to understand as that, say, cream should sell for less than milk. There are, of course, some people who do not like cream or cannot digest it, and the analogy is helpful. What happened was simply this: After the big American crop of 1920 and the deflation slump, the world found itself at the end of 1920-21 with an unprecedented carry-over of American cotton, nearly 10 million bales (see Table II.). The result was

AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN CARRY-OVER AT THE CLOSE OF EACH SEASON.

End of	American 000's running bales.	Egyptian 000's kantars.
Aug., 1912	3,911	2,493
1913	3,282	,792
July, 1920	6,665	3,612
1921	9,837	4,484
1922	5,282	4,485
1923	3,411	4,013
1924	2,824	2,506

an appalling slump in American, which actually brought prices for a time below pre-War figures; this was followed, in 1921, by a curtailment of acreage which, coinciding with the worst damage the boll weevil has ever done, produced three calamitously short crops in succession. This not only wiped out the huge carry-over, but actually reduced the world's stocks well below normal by July 31, 1923. The result was that the world

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was faced with something very near a famine of American cotton; and it is more difficult for spinners of American to use Egyptian than it was thought to be in the old days for spinners of Egyptian to use American. But so serious was the scarcity of American, especially of the rather better varieties which Lancashire requires, that for the first time in history spinners in Oldham, the great centre of the American trade, were actually using Uppers or even Sakel in place of American. The result was that while the American section of the industry was severely curtailed by organised short time the Egyptian section was able to carry on almost unrestricted, and Egyptian was practically the only variety of which the world's consumption continued to increase throughout 1923.

WORLD'S CONSUMPTION OF EGYPTIAN COTTON
(in thousands of running bales).

Country.	1912-13	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24
United Kingdom...	393	441	237	336	393	469
Germany	109	16	24	41	36	45
France	80	70	42	74	99	103
Russia	72	—	3	5	2	29
Poland & Finland	15	—	6	4	7	7
Austria	33	—	2	2	3	4
Czecho Slovakia ...	*a*	1	6	9	8	18
Italy	19	37	20	22	44	66
Spain.....	20	25	11	19	34	32
Switzerland	29	21	20	26	30	38
Other European ...	3	2	2	6	9	12
Total Continent.	380	173	136	208	272	354
U.S.A.	134	216	106	151	174	149
India.....	1	3	6	10	5	3
Japan	16	21	16	26	31	36
All Others.....	12	—	14	11	14	16
Grand Total.....	936	854	514	742	889	1,027
Crops: Arrivals (bales of 750 lbs.)	1,004	743	671	714	895	870

* Included in Russia. † Included in Austria.

Table III. above gives a summary of the International Cotton Federation's figures of world's consumption of Egyptian cotton.

The effect was very quickly seen in the rapid depletion of the world's carry-over of Egyptian cotton. As will be seen from Table II., the Egyptian carry-over had been well above normal at the end of season 1920-21, and remained fairly high till the end of 1922-23, but during the following season it was very quickly brought down, and at the end of July, 1924, was once more well below normal, like the American. The complete disappearance of the premium of Egyptian over American in the summer of 1923 was, therefore, due to the coincidence of a fairly ample supply of Egyptian cotton, with a scarcity of American almost amounting to famine; but once more these conditions were to be followed by an extreme reaction, partly the result of the very causes that had produced the abnormal state of affairs. In America the steady rise of prices had already led to an upward movement in the acreage which beat all records in 1924 with an acreage planted now estimated at nearly 41½ million acres. At first it looked as if the weather conditions and the boll-weevil together would destroy the hopes of a really large crop even from such an enormous acreage. The season began badly, cold and wet like its predecessors, but in June it suddenly picked up, and fine weather, combined with reports that the weevil had suffered heavily from severe frost during the winter, which had reduced the emergence of live weevils in spring, sent hopes of the new crop soaring. As the summer went on, however, the beneficent sunshine changed to an alarming drought, which again penalised the weevil very severely, but, unfortunately, seemed likely also to destroy the crop. The drought broke, however, about the middle of September, and gave place to a spell of continuous and excessive rain, which looked like being the last straw for the unfortunate crop. But that also picked up just in time, and since early October the crop has been favoured with what is probably the finest picking weather that has ever been experienced, except, perhaps, in 1920, and with the same result. Every possible lock of cotton has been saved, and the late growth, or top crop, which came after the breaking of the drought, appears in most cases to have been carried right through to ripening. The result is that the estimates of the crop are steadily creeping up, and it seems safe now to assume that it will be not less than 13¼ million bales, and perhaps 13½ millions.

Contrast with this the conditions affecting the Egyptian crop. There has been great confusion in recent years with regard to the Government statistics, with the result that the market has for some time simply declined to consider their estimates at all. When, therefore, the Government published an estimate of the acreage planted this year as 1,787,843 feddans, or 200,000 more than last year, the market put their own interpretation on these figures and added the 200,000 feddans to their own estimate of the acreage last year, which was about 1,800,000 feddans. This would have given a record acreage in 1924 of 2,000,000 feddans, and from such an acreage the trade naturally expected a big crop, 7½ to 8 million kantars being spoken of early in the season. There was, however, a good deal of uncertainty as to the proportion of the best qualities to be expected from this crop. All over the world the disappearance of the Egyptian premium had inevitably discouraged growers of staple cotton. Sea Island, for example, has practically disappeared, and the Pima crop of American Egyptian cotton in Arizona has also been replaced this year by short staple American to the extent of probably 90 per cent. In Egypt the effect was seen in the wholesale substitution of Zagora, an Upper Egyptian variety, for Sakel in the Delta, though it is, unfortunately, impossible to get statistics of this which the trade are prepared to accept. When, therefore, the Government's estimate of the crop in September stated that the total of 6,379,862 kantars was expected to include only 2,497,640 kantars Sakel, the market declined to take the estimate seriously. Subsequent events, however, have proved their mistake. It is now apparently generally accepted that the supply of good Sakel is really very short, though there seems to be much doubt here as to the real cause of the scarcity. It is alleged that a great deal of Sakel has been spoilt by mixing with it a quantity of Pilion, another shorter staple variety, though longer than Zagora, which found its way into the Delta a few years ago, and at first

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was hailed as the true successor of the old Brown Afifi cotton. Another view is that the quantity of Sakel has not been seriously reduced, but that so much of it now is of inferior quality that it may easily be confused with shorter varieties.

On the other hand, the demand for Egyptian has received an unexpected reinforcement through the shortage of the best staple American varieties, especially the 1¼ in. improved Upland and Delta cottons, which seem to have suffered very seriously in staple from the drought this summer. The result has been almost a scramble for Egyptian cotton, which, as already noted, has sent Sakel premiums soaring again.

Looking to the future, it is very hard to say what the next year or two may bring forth. The first result will inevitably be a very determined movement by the spinners to substitute cheaper varieties for Sakel. That is already going on, and the logic of prices will force it to its fullest development. The next effect will be a rush to grow Sakel again next year, certainly in Egypt (and also in the Sudan) and perhaps to some extent in Arizona, though there it will be very difficult to get the growers back to Pima once they have abandoned it. The community system of growing only one variety in the Salt River Valley had been developed almost to perfection, but once a system like that breaks down, it is extremely difficult to restore it.

But what of the American crop next year? The fall in price (it is now 13d. against about 22d. in November, 1923, and last season's average of nearly 18d.) will almost certainly lead to a reduction of acreage in 1925. The real problem, however, is the weather and its effect on the weevil. There are certainly plenty of weevils left to start again next year if the weather proves favourable. It is, therefore, quite impossible to predict what the American crop this year will be, though the *chances* are that it will not equal the high total of 1924. On the whole, therefore, it seems probable that the present high level of Egyptian will not last beyond this season, if, indeed, it lasts as long. That will depend on whether the world's spinners manage to cut their consumption down to the restricted supply quickly, or whether the process of readjustment takes time.

In the meantime, the moral of the whole business is (1) that there are no water-tight bulkheads between American and Egyptian cotton, or between Uppers and Sakel; (2) that a shortage of supply or an excessive demand for one or other variety will, through the medium of relative prices, very quickly shift the demand from one to another; and (3) that the effect of relative prices soon produces the natural reaction on supply, unless abnormal conditions affecting the different crops should happen to prevent the necessary readjustment.

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KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDIA, Jan. 16. *ELYSIA, Feb. 11.
*MASSILIA, Jan. 30. *CIRCASSIA, Feb. 27.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
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SUDAN LIGHT AND POWER.

The Sudan Light and Power has been registered as a public company with a nominal capital of £356,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to construct and control public works and conveniences in the Sudan or elsewhere, including railways, tramways, docks, water, gas, electric light, telephonic, telegraphic, and power supply works, etc. The first directors are: Baron Meston of Agra and Dunottar, Hurst, Cookham Dene, Berks, director of English Electric Company; Sir Thos. O. Callender, Bidborough Court, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, managing director Callender's Cable and Construction Company; Col. F. J. Byrne, C.M.G., 36, Sloane Court, S.W.3, director Dorman Long and Co.; P. J. Pybus, 21, Whitehall Court, S.W.1, managing director of English Electric Company; Sir Geo. E. May, Bucknalls, near Watford, Herts, secretary to Prudential Assurance Company; Lt.-Col. G. E. Schuster, M.C., Nether Worton House, Steeple Aston, Oxon, Financial Secretary to Sudan Government. The Sudan Government has the right to nominate one director, Lt.-Col. G. E. Schuster being the first nominee. The registered office is at Queen's House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

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. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 27). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 28).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 21); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Agra for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 22).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 24).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 31). M.s. Sycamore for Galatz and Braila (the first steamer of the season for the Danube) (Liverpool, February 7). S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Devanha for Bombay (London, January 23); s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 24).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, January 21).

The Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt have declared a dividend of 1s. per share.

All male Turks between the ages of eighteen and sixty will have to do from six to twelve days work on the roads every year under a new law recently voted by the Angora Assembly.

The progress reports of Phœnix Oil and Transport Company and allied companies for December show that the total crude oil production for the month was 24,137 tons, and the throughput of the refineries 20,971 tons.

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RAILWAY MATERIAL FOR EGYPT.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance, when submitting the railway programme to the Council of Ministers, accompanied it by an explanatory note stating that the objects at which it aimed were:

(a) The urgent replacement of material and rolling stock in bad condition, the renewal of which has been neglected during the last eleven years.

(b) The adoption of a permanent annual programme in order to ensure the future upkeep and renewal of railway material and rolling stock in proportion to current needs.

The execution of the permanent programme will necessitate a fixed annual credit of £E567,000 distributed as follows: Double track, 100 kilometres, £E220,000; new locomotives, 20, £E100,000; goods trucks, 320, £E112,000; passenger coaches, 30, £E105,000; bridges, £E20,000, signals, £E10,000—total, £E567,000.

Independently of this credit, a sum of £E3,105,000 will be devoted to the renewal and repair of much-used material which has been neglected during the last eleven years. This sum is to be used as follows: Double track, 400 kilometres, £E880,000; new locomotives, 120, £E600,000; goods trucks, 1,500, £E525,000; passenger coaches, 200, £E700,000; bridges, £E200,000; signals, £E200,000—total, £E3,105,000.

The Finance Committee was desirous of spreading this sum of £E3,105,000 over four years, instead of the three proposed by the Ministry of Communications, in order to reduce somewhat the annual deficit in the railway budget, but the Council of Ministers, considering the work to be of an urgent nature, decided, when approving on November 10 of this programme, that it is to be spent during the financial years 1925-26 to 1927-28 inclusive.

This programme cannot, of course, be put into execution unless and until the Egyptian Parliament approves the State Budget.

COMPANY MEETING.

IONIAN BANK.

Economic Strength of Greece.

The annual general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on January 13, at the offices of the company, Basildon House, Moorgate, E.C.2, the Chairman, Sir John Stavridi, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. A. Shaw, Litt.D.) 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: In attempting to estimate the financial strength and resilience of Greece and her immediate prospects economically, we must bear in mind that she is still in a state of transition, that it is only about a year since she has ceased to be at war, so that the process of post-war reconstruction in her case is in the same initial stage as it was, say, at the end of 1919 for the Great Powers. It is substantially for this reason that the currency of Greece is still depreciated and the cost of living is still high; so high, indeed, that whilst the drachma has remained fairly stable during the year, round about 250 to the £, within the same period the index figure of the cost of living has risen from 1112 to 1357. The present Government has, however, set up a strong "Economic Committee" on the lines of our own Geddes Committee with a view to the reduction of all unnecessary and indiscriminate expenditure in Government offices, and we can only hope that it will be successful in its endeavours. This, however, is but one side of the picture. On the whole, it is possible to assert that Greece has progressed far along the road of reconstruction, and this notwithstanding the enormous burden cast upon her by the exchange of populations which brought over 1,500,000 refugees to the shores of Greece. The successive Governments have faced the situation with courage and imagination; and have succeeded in avoiding what might have been an appalling catastrophe. They have constantly endeavoured to bring about an equilibrium in their budget by increasing taxation. Since 1914, which is only a matter of ten years, we find that the ordinary revenue and expenditure has increased fifteenfold, in spite of all the desolation of war and loss of human life. It may safely be asserted that there is no other country in Europe which can show such a substantial expansion, and, even so, it is claimed that the taxable capacity of the country has not yet been fully reached.

The issue of the prospectus of the recently floated Greek Refugee Loan came as a surprise to the market in England. People had not understood or realised the intrinsic soundness and strength of the security which the country could offer nor the vast progress it had made during the last decade. When these facts were brought to their knowledge the response was such that the applications for the loan amounted to twenty-five times the amount offered. No other reconstruction loan has had such overwhelming success. It is a pleasure to me to inform you that the subscriptions to the loan through our bank practically covered the portion of the loan issued in Greece and also a considerable portion of the London issue.

It must furthermore be borne in mind that in Macedonia and Thrace there are more than two million acres of the most productive soil under the sun which are still waste and devastated as the result of the successive wars; and just as there is this expansible margin of rich cultivatable land, so there is an expansible margin of Greek flesh and blood in the million and a-half refugees who have been landed on her shores and who will, in the course of time, add to the richness and prosperity of the country. It is impossible even to adumbrate the ultimate possibilities for the economic life of Greece of this addition of sober, hard-working people to her population.

Finally, let me add that the Greek Government is anxious to encourage the investment of foreign capital in Greece for the construction of public works. With this end in view, a syndicate of banks has been formed in Athens, under the auspices of the National Bank, which in this, as in all other questions involving the economic development of the country, has taken the lead. Our institution has, of course, participated in the formation of this syndicate.

And now as regards Egypt, our second most important field of activities. With regard to the financial position, the country is quickly recovering from the crisis of 1921. Its chief product being cotton of a superior quality which has fetched high prices, it has been in a position to export during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 cotton and cotton-seed to the value of £E100,302,146, the total exports during this period being £E114,695,626, whilst the imports totalled £E88,918,636, showing a balance of trade in favour of the country of some £E25,777,000 in two years, which is a very satisfactory result.

It may also interest you to have a few figures relating to the cotton crop, which directly affects our business in Egypt and our participation in financing its movement. The total arrivals in Alexandria from September 1, 1923, to August 31, 1924, were 7,267,000 cantars, of a total value of some £50,000,000, of which we handled 744,000 cantars, being 10.24 per cent. of the total arrivals. This is a very considerable proportion of the total crop, and shows a satisfactory result of our working when taking into consideration that there are eleven other important banks established in Egypt competing with us, as well as many exporting firms and private bankers.

The motion was carried unanimously, and after the usual formal business, the meeting terminated.

GUARDIAN EASTERN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 68, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Subscribed Capital - - - £650,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £130,000

The Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd. (Established 1821), owns one-fourth of the Capital above mentioned.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Advance in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Co., in their report for the week ended December 31, state :—

Since our last report, the futures market has displayed much strength and prices secured all-round substantial advances : the net changes on the week are the following : Sakellaridis : $2.30 up for January; $2.50 up for March; $2.75 up for May; $2.70 up for July; $1.10 up for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $1.30 up for February; $1.25 up for April; $1.30 up for October, 1925. The advance of the market must be attributed principally to heavy speculative purchases which have been induced by the strength of the statistical position and the recent rise in New York. The demand from abroad has fallen off considerably, but the holidays have probably been the cause. Exports during the week have been extremely heavy, and in view of the fact that the daily arrivals in Alexandria from up-country have now diminished considerably, the consequence is a decrease in the stock at Alexandria, a quite uncommon occurrence for this period of the year. The strength of the statistical position is further emphasised when one considers that stocks in Liverpool, Manchester, and on the Continent, plus cotton at sea, are this week 152,000, against 188,000 bales same time last year, whilst the latest available figures of stocks in America show about 30,000 bales less than last year. The position judged on the strength of the above figures is decidedly bullish, and, further, it must be considered that the admitted improved conditions in the principal textile centres of the world would necessarily have as result an increased consumption of cotton, if the price did not check it. The approach of the maturity of January Sakel and the decrease of activity on the spot market has induced many people to transfer their holdings to March, and the result has been a narrowing of the difference between these two months. However, spot cotton continues to fetch a heavy premium over "future basis," and we do not expect dockets of any size to be tendered against January contracts. The position of February Ashmouni is getting interesting : Ashmouni spot is well held, and F.G.F. commands a full dollar premium over February contracts. The week's receipts amount to 211,828 krs., against exports 299,585 krs.; the stock stands at 1,964,059 krs.

Spot.—This week has been a short one, due to the holidays, and Minet-el-Bassal has only been open three days. Sales amount to about 14,700 bales, of which we estimate 5,600 bales Sakel, 5,000 bales Uppers, 3,600 bales Zagora, 250 bales Pilion, 200 bales Brown, and 50 bales White.

Sakellaridis.—Medium and good qualities have absorbed most of the demand. The lower grades continue neglected. Spot premiums are without much change, except for good and better, which are slightly dearer.

Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt Zagora.—A good business has been done in all grades from good fair upwards. Below good fair there has been very little demand. Spot premiums are well maintained at last week's rates for the grades from fully good fair upwards, but below fully good fair they are a little easier.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are unchanged.

Brown.—A moderate business has been done at about last week's spot premiums.

White.—A retail business has been done. Spot premiums are unchanged, but this growth is neglected and prices have not been really tested.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Improved Inquiry for Egyptian Spot.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 7 :—

Egyptian Spot.—The first week of the New Year has brought a slightly improved inquiry, and, during the last two days particularly, there has been rather more business about. It is too early as yet to interpret this as the forerunner of another buying wave, and we are more inclined to attribute it to a natural desire on the part of spinners to cover themselves against shipments which may have been damaged by fire on board the s.s. Chinese Prince, now lying in Manchester Docks. Inquiry on the spot has been of a fairly general character, practically all qualities and growths participating, with the exception of Sudan, which has been lifeless.

In Sakellaridis, Low cotton 19.00d. to 22.00d. has again received attention, and a moderate turnover has resulted. Cotton at from 50 to 150 on January has been a popular range, and a fair selection of this quality now seems to be available. There has been some indication latterly on the part of holders to meet buyers in the Low and Medium qualities (particularly in the former), but in the higher grades, although business has resulted up to nearly 34.00d. per lb., trading is difficult, and spinners complain that they find it impossible to make a profit at current rates. These top grades, however, are strongly held.

Uppers have been in comparatively good request, but here again there are signs that spinners are slowly beginning to boycott the top priced cotton, and that the demand is being forced down to the medium qualities. This is probably only a temporary phase, as in our opinion best Uppers at about 22.00d. are not dear compared with Sakellaridis and Pilion. There is considerable irregularity in the prices asked for the medium qualities, and it is possible to buy Fully Good Fair Uppers to-day at fully ½d. under the official quotation for that quality.

Pilion has been in improved request, but we have heard of no business of any weight going

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through. There is a fair selection available, and up to 26.00d. is being asked to-day for the best. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. The majority of spinners seem to have enough cotton to last them for a while, probably well into February, and present rates are not encouraging them to buy ahead. Alexandria, with the exception of one sharp break early in the week, has maintained a very steady front, and there is no doubt that from their point of view the statistical position of Egyptian cotton this season is a strong one. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 2nd inst. were returned as 9,512 bales. Estimated sales 2,200 bales Egyptian. Quotations of Brown and Uppers are advanced 10 points on the week. Sakellaridis is 85 points higher for Extra Fine, 35 higher for Fine down to Good Fair, whilst Fair is exceptionally 40 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel, 30.00d.

SAFEGUARDING THE QUALITY OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

A communiqué issued by the Royal Egyptian Legation in London states that, in view of the rumours which have prevailed among cotton spinners in England to the effect that it is impossible to obtain pure cotton seeds for the forthcoming season, more especially of the Sakel variety, owing to the admixture of different cottons, the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has decided to take effective measures for the prevention of any possible deterioration in the quality and purity of cotton seeds. For this purpose the following procedure has been decided upon :—

(1) The Ministry will undertake to distribute Sakel seeds from the first picking of Domains seeds to large farmers reputed for their excellence in cultivation and for the careful management of their own farms. The distribution will, however, be subject to certain stipulated conditions which will enable the Ministry of Agriculture to supervise and control the various agricultural operations from the time of sowing to the time of ginning, so that it will be possible to ascertain that such farms are free from any foreign cotton plants, and that "mabroma" cottons and other impurities are eliminated. In this way pure seeds for the next season will be available for distribution among a greater number of cotton growers for sowing a larger area of land. These measures will be followed in future years until pure sakel seeds become so abundant as to meet all the requirements of all sakel growers. The same measures will be applied to "Assili" and "310" cottons.

(2) The above measures will also be applied to Upper Egypt, with a view to propagating selected seeds for the two varieties, Royal Ashmouni and Zagora.

(3) For the benefit of small cultivators who usually obtain their takawy on credit from the seeds selected by the Ministry from ginneries in Lower Egypt, a committee, presided over by the Chief Inspector, and composed of two technical experts from the Botanical and Agronomic Sections of the Ministry, will examine the seeds at the ginneries and satisfy themselves that the seeds are pure, and that they have not been subjected to any such admixing as is likely to occur in some ginneries. Having satisfied themselves on these points, the committee will again examine the seeds to ascertain their power of germination.

In this way the Ministry will, before distribution to small growers, make sure that the seeds are of good quality, free from admixture with other varieties, and, finally, of a high germinating power. Serious efforts on these lines are being taken with the desire to maintain and improve the characteristics of Egyptian cottons. With this purpose in view, specialists will be appointed to make a thorough control of the matter under the supervision of the high officials of the Ministry.

To put into force the foregoing scheme, which will gradually ensure the maintenance of the high position in commercial markets, and of the characteristics of Egyptian cottons, as well as to ensure in the near future the satisfaction of all applicants for good and pure seeds, the Ministry has, with regret, been obliged to refuse most of the orders made for Domain Sakel.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping plant. February 15. (D.O.T.)

Uniforms.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms required during the financial year 1925-26. February 20.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 metrical tons Portland cement. February 21.

Roumania.

Zinc Ticket Racks.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for 116 zinc ticket racks. January 23. (D.O.T.)

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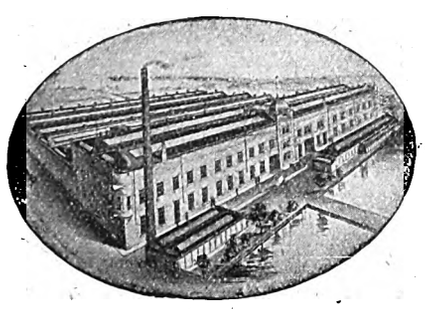
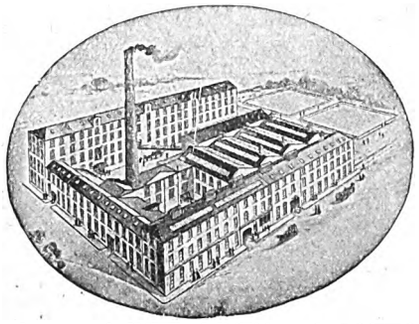
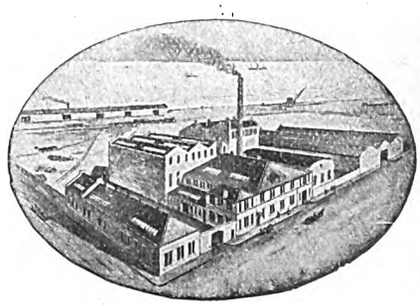

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Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

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Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 715—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Croat Arrests.

The liberation of the Croat leaders, with the exception of M. Raditch, and of the rank and file of the Croat Peasant Party by the Zagreb Court does not affect the decree dissolving the organisation and prohibiting its members from standing at the approaching election; but it does place the Yugoslav Government in a curious position. Justification for the steps taken against the party was based on its connection with the Moscow Peasant International, which was held to be identified with the Third International, and the thoroughness with which the Government carried out the proscription may be judged from the fact that nearly two thousand arrests were made. The Zagreb Court has ruled that the Peasant International is not to be identified with the Third International, and that there was no evidence to connect the accused with the latter; it was further satisfied by the statements of the accused and the evidence which they produced that the Croatian Peasant Party was entirely pacific in its policy and had no intention of resorting to revolution. As far as M. Raditch was concerned, the Court decided that, as he had refused to give any explanation on the ground that he was immune from arrest as a member of the Skupshtina, he must remain in prison until the decision of the responsible authorities had been ascertained. It may be unfortunate for the Government if the evidence against M. Raditch is not stronger than that produced against his subordinates; for, in spite of the assurances that the measures adopted are not to be regarded as a *démarche* against the Croats as a whole, feeling in Croatia is likely to be aroused by the numerous arrests. A late report states that M. Raditch has also been released, but confirmation at the time of going to press is lacking.

Minorities in the Balkans.

The Greek Government has announced its decision not to carry into effect the Protocol drawn up in Geneva last September concerning Greek minorities in Bulgaria and Bulgarian minorities in Greece. This Protocol gave extended powers to two delegates of the League of Nations in connection with the minorities in question, and promised to be the means of introducing a notable improvement in the relations between the two countries. For a long time past the lot of the respective minorities has not been a happy one; Greeks have found it necessary or advisable to leave Bulgaria, Bulgarians have been obliged to leave Greece. There have also been unexplained murders on each side. A scheme that would safeguard the interests of the unfortunate people concerned, enable them to yield with the minimum of personal loss and discomfort to the dictates of national hatred, and regulate a voluntary exchange of populations had much to commend it. The two delegates appointed by the League were well known in both countries, and have been engaged for some time in studying the position with a view to carrying out the terms of the Protocol. The first sign of opposition came from Yugoslavia, where it was supposed that the formal recognition of Greece's Macedonian subjects as Bulgarians might prejudice Serbia's claim on these people as her nationals. Whether such a fear played any part in prompting the Yugoslav Government to denounce the treaty with Greece must be left an open question. In Greece itself exception was taken to the Protocol on a variety of grounds, most of them leading back to the feeling that it was derogatory to Greece to admit that there was any need to invite outside supervision of minorities, particularly as these were already safeguarded by the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne. The Greek Government's decision is to be regretted, if only because it is a backward step in the promotion of better relations with Bulgaria. It is idle to pretend that all is as it should be in regard to the minorities in the two countries; the occurrence of murders proves that it is not so. A country that faces facts and lays itself out to remove causes of friction between neighbours in the Balkans stands to gain, not to lose, prestige.

Angora and Constantinople.

The antagonism between Angora and Constantinople displays itself in many ways. At the present moment trouble centres in the position of the Prefect of Constantinople. The Govern-

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ment of Fethi Bey, who does not forget that he is one of the representatives of the old capital, has proposed that Constantincple should be brought into line with other towns and be allowed to elect its own Prefect. The suggestion has evoked considerable opposition in the Popular Party in Angora, on the ground that if Constantinople is accorded so much liberty of action it may run entirely off the rails, and the Cabinet has been obliged to postpone a decision on the subject. In the meantime, the actual Prefect and the Vali, both Government nominees, provide relief for political tempers by coming into conflict on no more serious subject than whether Constantinople should not or should be allowed to keep late hours, the Prefect proposing to make 11.30 p.m. the general closing time. So long as the Constantinople Press adopts an attitude of unrelieved hostility towards Angora and all its doings, it is to be feared that it will be difficult for the Government to adopt a more conciliatory policy. There are signs that the latter has begun to appreciate the unwisdom of legislation that restricts the business activities of the largest revenue producer in the country; but it will not climb down to the bidding of the Press, and what is wanted is a period of freedom from abuse, in order that time may be given for the inauguration of a different policy. The sentencing of the editor-owner of an Opposition paper in Constantinople to six months' imprisonment for abuse of the liberty of the Press will seem to anyone unable to take newspaper lucubrations as seriously as Angora does an excessive penalty; but it will serve a useful purpose if it reminds the Turkish Press as a whole that it can do far more good by reasoned and restrained criticism than by flamboyant abuse, which may be left to the politicians. It is on much sounder ground when, as in the last few days, it has taken up the question of the necessity of encouraging the introduction of foreign capital.

Tutankhamen.

The Tutankhamen squabble is over. Mr. Howard Carter returns to Luxor to continue his operations in the tomb in a better temper, we may hope, than when he left it ten months ago. Commonsense has triumphed on both sides; the tomb belongs to Egypt; Mr. Carter is obviously the right man to finish the work that he had begun, and his licence holds good until 1926. Better still, the bogey of commercialism which for so long was seated astride of the discovery has been exorcised, and the patient public will have its intellectual curiosity satisfied without being dragged into a quarrel which showed up all the disputants in the worst possible light. Visitors, provided with special permits from the Government, are to be admitted to the tomb on Tuesdays. Tutankhamen, therefore, will play his part in the tourist programme in the orderly manner that befits such a venerable item, while Mr. Carter will have the greater part of the week to himself for his own work. The only people likely to find fault with this arrangement are the rush parties, whose timetable allows them only two days at Luxor, neither of which happens to be a Tuesday. Even they, however, will be able to gaze on the outside of Tutankhamen's tomb and persuade themselves that they have actually seen its occupant when they gaze on the features of Amenhetep II. close by.

The Sudan Defence Force.

The formation of a Sudan Defence Force, announced by the new Governor-General, Sir Geoffrey Archer, on January 17, is the logical sequel to the expulsion from the Sudan of Egyptian officers and purely Egyptian units of the Army and the subsequent refusal of the Egyptian Government to accept responsibility for the employment of Sudanese officers. As soon as a conflict of opinion arose between the two Governments responsible for the Sudan, and that conflict was pushed by the Egyptian Government of the day to the lengths to which it actually was pushed, the dual allegiance of the Sudanese Army became impossible. A new force has accordingly had to be created from the old material, and henceforth it will owe undivided allegiance to Great Britain in the person of the Governor-General. Although, as we have seen, no section of Egyptian public opinion has openly declared itself prepared to accept the separation of the Sudan from Egypt, many thinking people among the Egyptians realise that the real interests of their country will not only be best served by, but actually require, a peaceful and progressive Sudan; at the same time they know that for many years to come this goal could not be reached under an administration solely in Egyptian hands. For the irreconcilables the formation of the Sudan Defence Force will add fuel to their wrath; others will see in it yet another proof of the stupidity of Zaghloul Pasha's tactics, and, while not liking it, will be further strengthened in their resolve to try to make Egypt worthier of trust and consideration as an original partner in the Sudan condominium. By friendly arrangement much can be achieved in the Valley of the Nile; the attempt of Egypt to browbeat Great Britain has led only to humiliation.

INDIA.

Politics in Bengal.

With the approach of the Budget season increased interest is being displayed in the prospects of politics in the two provinces where the Constitution is temporarily out of order. So far as Bengal is concerned, there are no indications of immediate improvement. The legislature has had two opportunities of modifying its original attitude, but neither has been used, and, to all outward appearance, it is still determined to throw grit into the machinery of government. The last of these opportunities, the vote on the so-called repressive Ordinance, can, however, scarcely be regarded as a fair test, because it asked for too much. There is, indeed, an element of courage, or even of truculence, in the Bengali character, but at the moment it appears mainly among the extremist leaders, while among the rank and file of politicians the outstanding characteristic is still reluctance to take a stand against a vocal and organised minority. There are signs, such as the attempt to organise the landholders, that a reaction against the dominant clique is in process of generation, but it needs time to develop, and apparently Lord Lytton's Administration will have to carry on for another year or so on the present footing, with the primary functions of government provided for, but with practically no chance of pushing forward the constructive policy which the province needs so much.

The Position in the Central Provinces.

In the Central Provinces, on the other hand, the reaction against the sterilisation of the Constitution seems to be making more rapid headway, partly as the result of the retiring Governor's outspoken farewells to the people, partly in consequence of the practical inconveniences which have been experienced during the past year. The latest news indicates that the members of the extremist party have been driven to do some hard thinking, and the immediate result is that they are willing to

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work the Constitution, provided the Ministers are given what is described as "real and genuine" responsibility. That description, tautological as it is, applies precisely to the position secured to Ministers by the Constitution, and we take it that what is meant is that the time has come, or nearly come, for saving people's faces. Whether this operation is possible or desirable is a question for Sir Montagu Butler, who assumes office as Governor next week. He may possibly think it wiser to rely on those elements of the electorate which allowed themselves to be eclipsed at the last election. But, whatever his decision on this point may be, the conclusion appears to be justified that the province has learned an important lesson, not without some temporary discomfort, but, all things considered, at a very reasonable cost.

The Evil of Parochialism.

A glance over the criticisms passed in India on some recent high appointments impels us to protest once again against the parochial attitude adopted in such matters by almost every part of the country. The Viceroy calls to his aid a gentleman from Calcutta, and Bombay resents his action as a personal slight. An appointment given to the South provokes gibes and sneers from East and West and North. Hindus "crab" a Moslem, and Moslems a Hindu, though both will combine to flout a Christian or a Parsee, and, speaking generally, a prophet has no honour outside his own parish or conventicle. It is not open to the authorities to complain of this attitude, because they have done so much to encourage it by their own past actions, but surely the time has come when this administrative rotativism should be definitely stopped. The Viceroy's Council is necessarily far too small to be representative of all the races, regions, and religions of India, and the attempt to make it partially representative can only weaken it at a time when it needs to be strongest. The Council has one paramount function—to guide British India along the road marked out by Parliament, and the choice of its members ought to be determined by considerations of their efficiency for this purpose, to the exclusion of all other matters.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Mr. Asquith's Future.

The return of Mr. Asquith from his visit to the Near East has set all the quidnuncs of London a-prattling about his future; one feels quite lonely, indeed, in one's ignorance about the intentions of the great Liberal leader. You may hear it definitely asserted that the sun will set on his last days in some mellow academy; that it has long been desired in the highest circles to award him a peerage, so that, by his presence in the Lords, his noble sonorities shall not be lost to the country; and that, whatever happens, the Liberal Party will continue to be led by him.

What to make of all this perhaps Mrs. Asquith alone knows. Supposing, for instance, that Mr. Asquith prefers London to Oxford as his platform for the expression of his political profundities, or that he still does not care—as he was known formerly not to care—for the House of Lords, or that in the near future there will be no Liberal Party to lead? The sphinxlike attitude on the part of the object of their vain imaginings is exasperating the journalists.

One thing one may hope for: that whatever fate awaits Mr. Asquith, it will be in consonance with the dignity and the serenity of his career. At the time of his eclipse by Mr. Lloyd George it was said of his departure from the House: "There goes the last English gentleman." And it was very nearly true.

The Church and Politics.

The Church—or, rather, the churchman—is providing the papers with some very good "copy" just now. Not that religious matters can claim yet to be treated on all fours with, say, a murder case, but there is no doubt that the sagacious (I had nearly written salacious) editors of certain daily journals believe that the discreetest or the emptiest words that fall from the mouths of eminent bishops can be used as manna to the starveling flocks.

A great to-do—that is to say, something that lasted well into the second day—was caused by the innocent remark of some divine that our age was declining into paganism. It was an innocent remark, because the speaker, although obviously aware that his true gods had been widely overthrown, was unaware of the tragic fact that no other gods have been found to replace them. A meeting face to face can be made between a Christian and a pagan, but the type of man and woman of the present against which the Bishop was railing has no counterpart except in the nonentities of all histories.

Again, the Dean of St. Paul's, who now provides almost as much copy as he produces, has been taken severely (to the length of two, sometimes even three, paragraphs) to task by the omniscient typewriter of the jejune Fleet Street hack for having had the audacity to break through the old lie that churchmen should be the keenest politicians. Briefly, Dean Inge's case is that the Church has nothing to do with politics. He believes that the fashionable attacks from the pulpit upon economic systems are, when they are not mere rhetoric, calculated only to bring the Church into disrepute; it was only the other day that he delivered, in his best satirical vein, a terrific attack upon C.O.P.E.C.—the organisation of the Churches which is seeking to impose a Christian interpretation of daily life upon this ungodly realm.

It is by no means because one is in agreement with the Dean of St. Paul's that one resents these attacks upon him; it is because they represent the very vagueness or hypocrisy that are the curses of or the substitute for modern social thought. It may well be that the Dean is wrong—one may think of the way in which the Church in England in the Middle Ages dominated politics and economics; but at least he believes what he says. The

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present plaint is that it is the duty of someone else to supply us with beliefs.

The Dames of Labour.

Nothing is more remarkable about the Labour movement than the way in which its female supporters bandy charges. The latest one to throw down the glove to her erstwhile knight is Mrs. Philip Snowden, wife of the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer. She has, according to the cables, just spoken of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's direction of the Socialist Party as "the worst political leadership of modern times"—a description so obviously just and intimate that the reader irks at the brevity of the Canadian cable.

Not to be outdone, however, Miss Wilkinson, a Labour M.P., steps into the ex-Premier's breach and suggests that Mrs. Snowden deserves slapping.

Now all these things have what is called a "news-value," and therefore get extensively reported in the Press, although what they have to do with politics it is difficult to understand. The only comfort to be drawn from the incident is that if the Labour Party contains women on, so to speak, different sides, its unity is afar off indeed.

Socialism and the Stage.

It has, I believe, been a long-standing grievance with the Socialists that they could never obtain a theatre for Sunday use in which they might propagate their ideas. At last their wishes are to be fulfilled. Mr. Arthur Bourchier, whom everybody knows as an actor and a few as a recent convert to the Labour Party, has arranged to let Socialist messages sweeten the atmosphere of the Strand Theatre, Aldwych.

Naturally, the *Morning Post* is furious about it. It flies in a fine fury to the example of Moscow, which has, it is said, captured the theatre for Communist purposes, and lashes out the charge that dramatic art is, even in London, now to be used as a decoy to political proselytisation. This onslaught was, to say the least (and perhaps the most), very readable.

Whether anyone else worries about it I rather doubt. No one has ever felt safe about the politics of artistic people, who have generally been against the prevailing régime.

Relics of Byron.

It is to the scholar and the expert that the exhibition of Byron's manuscripts and first editions which the First Edition Club has prepared in its delightful premises at 6, Little Russell Street, W.C., will principally appeal, for the man who thinks of this show merely in terms of its monetary worth or of the degree of envy to which it would provoke American millionaires is not worth considering. The whole collection has been lent by two men, Mr. John Murray and Mr. T. J. Wise, and it is certainly an amazing one. There is, for instance, that reply to an imagined attack on his poems which Byron wrote for the *Grandmother's Review*—which not even the British Museum possesses; and there is the unpublished dedication to Don Juan.

Of course it is very gratifying that such a collection could not possibly be found in America, where, I believe, there are at least fifty First Edition Clubs. But it is an extremely lucky accident that Byron's works should have become so closely associated with one patriotic publishing family—the Murray's.

The Spencer Portraits.

In connection with this, it is impossible to put down as anything but hypocrisy most of the outcry which has been raised against Lord Spencer for his selling to America of Reynolds and Gainsborough portraits. After all, the world has accepted the monetary value as *the* value, and those who wish to live as the world does must conform to this value.

The philosophical will regard this latest transmission of works of art with continence and detachment. They will reflect that America, with all her wealth and ability to buy artists and works of art, has hardly yet produced a musician or a painter who will achieve or has achieved universal fame. There need be few tears at the apparent triumph of the acquisitive over the creative nation.

Sherwood Forest.

What respect the great railway companies of Britain really have for the beauty of the countryside—of which they are unceasingly talking in their advertisements, and whose allurements they lavishly commission eminent artists to paint—can be seen from the recent proposal of the L.M.S. to run a line right through the heart of Robin Hood's country. It is being proposed that, for the purposes of serving a new colliery now being sunk between Edwinstowe and Ollerton, a branch railway shall be made, involving the destruction of Beech Avenue, which, as some think, is the most notable and lovely of all England's woodlands.

Fortunately, the local Sherwood Foresters are determined not to tolerate this monstrous proposal. Even more fortunately, the new colliery is being served by a branch line of the L.N.E.R., which is already being built. But the battle is not won yet.

Overcrowded Museums.

The museums of this country are just now full of a complaint that they are not allowed to destroy useless matter, and that consequently the space at their disposal is approaching its limit. Obviously, in cases like those of the British Museum or the Natural History Museum of Kensington, the matter must become increasingly serious, and it is being suggested that the State should now decide to keep its treasures in houses capable of unlimited expansion.

It is not an easy problem, as anyone faced with the necessity of destruction knows. But when it is remembered that the space which the British Museum devotes to newspapers is increasing at the rate of much more than a hundred yards a year, it is patent that something severe must be done.

ALTER EGO.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes left India last week for Abyssinia.

The date of the opening of the International Geographical Congress, which is to be held in Cairo, has been fixed for April 1.

The League of Nations Mosul Boundary Commission arrived in Baghdad on January 16 from Damascus, and are proceeding to Mosul about January 26.

A Royal Decree issued in Cairo on January 18 postpones the first degree elections to February 2, the second degree to March 12, and the meeting of Parliament to March 23.

A Royal Air Force aeroplane crashed last Saturday near Ramleh, in Palestine. Three of the crew were seriously injured, and one is reported to have died since in the military hospital.

The 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment left Cairo last week for India, and is being succeeded at the Cairo Citadel by the 1st Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, from Ismailia.

Prominent Egyptian ladies are arranging to produce a feminist review, to be published in French and Arabic, and to be edited by a French lady. Efforts are also being made to form an Egyptian Ladies' Club.

According to the Syrian papers, movements are afoot, and are being encouraged by Ibn Saud, to secure the election of Shereef Ali Haidar as Shereef of Mecca and Caliph at the forthcoming Islamic Congress at Mecca.

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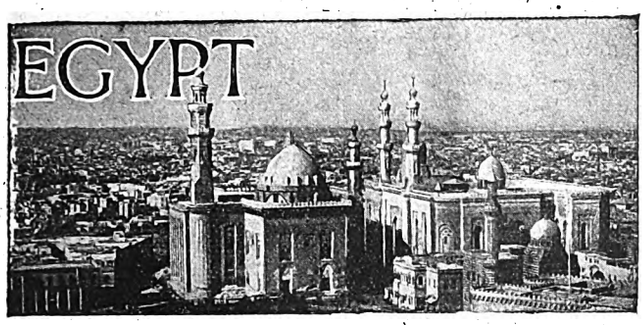
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, January 10.

Liberal Revelations.

The sensation of the week has been the revelation made by *Assyassa*, the Liberal Constitutional organ, of the overtures which it alleges were recently made by Zaghloul Pasha to the British authorities. The allegation was that Zaghloul Pasha on two occasions sent an emissary to the Residency proposing an agreement on lines acceptable to the British Government, on the understanding that the Ziwar Cabinet should be made to resign and be replaced by a Cabinet formed by the Wafd, but not necessarily presided over by Zaghloul Pasha.

No sooner were these revelations made public than an indignant denial was published by the Wafd and by the editor of its European organ, who confessed that he had made overtures, but entirely on his own responsibility. Those who remember the hubbub caused in Wafd circles last November by the publication of the *modus vivendi* by the same person will see a striking similarity between the two events, and there is not the slightest doubt—in fact, I am in a position to know—that the emissary on this, as on the previous occasion, acted with the full connivance and approval of Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues. The truth is that, to quote a keen European student of Egyptian politics, the Wafd is so anxious to regain its old position that it would sell Egypt if thereby it could assure itself a return to power; and this would serve to explain the amazing lack of self-respect displayed by the Wafd in making these overtures in the face of the scathing criticism contained in the King's Speech.

Wafd Defections.

What is certainly disconcerting the Wafd is the defections which are taking place amongst the candidates whom it has nominated for elections. Since Saturday last, the final date for nominations, when the statistics showed that it had presented 207 candidates for 211 seats, no less than 20 of these candidates have declared that they no longer belong to the Wafdist Party, but intend to stand as Independents. To these can be added half a dozen Senators who have officially forsaken the Wafd fold.

The main reason given by these defecting members is the hostile attitude to the Throne adopted by Zaghloul Pasha and his associates; and such an unfavourable effect has this had on the general public that Zaghloul Pasha has felt himself compelled to issue a manifesto protesting his past and present loyalty towards the King and to make in the several speeches he has delivered to students and others copious references to his devotion to the Throne.

But his protestations are of little avail, for his own actions of recent date are too fresh in the public memory for the latter to swallow his assertion that he has never been, and never will be, hostile to the Palace. He has always been an anti-Royalist, a Republican at heart, and during the past few years Zaghloul Pasha's whole attitude has been one of studied antagonism towards King Fuad. It started with his endeavours in 1920, when in London, to persuade the British Government to agree to a change in Sovereign; it continued with his well-known aspirations to become the first President of the Egyptian Republic; and it ended but six weeks ago with the open challenge he directed at the King when he accused his entourage of intriguing against him, sent the mob to shout "Saad or revolution" below the windows of the Palace while he was within discussing the situation with his Sovereign, and withdrew his resignation with the announcement that he had gained a great constitutional victory.

To what extent all this will affect the elections it is difficult to foresee. It is certain, however, that Zaghloul Pasha has done neither himself nor his colleagues any good by the irresponsible declarations he has made. The threat which he uttered in the course of an interview that as soon as he got back to power he would arraign the present Ministers and their associates savours indeed of a mood which bodes no good, and, indeed, his whole attitude has been such as to confirm the feeling amongst all European communities that his return or that of his party to power would have disastrous consequences on the country.

The Death of Major Capper.

The death of Major Capper, of the European Department of the Ministry of the Interior, which occurred suddenly on Thursday, has aroused widespread regret. Belonging to a family which has gained distinction in the service of the Empire, Major Capper had himself had a most distinguished academic record before he came to Egypt on the outbreak of war as an officer in the East Lancs Division. It spoke eloquently of his grit and public spirit that at the age of 55, as he then was,

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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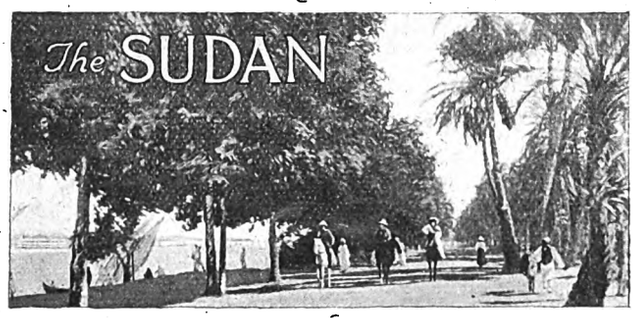
he should have volunteered for active service; and through all the subsequent ten years he spent in Egypt he displayed the same sterling qualities. He was soon drafted into the Intelligence Department, and his wide general knowledge and vast fund of common sense made him an invaluable asset in the Field Censor's Office, where he worked for several years. Three years ago, when the European Department of the Ministry of the Interior was formed, he was transferred to it, doing there work of which his chiefs speak in the highest of terms.

The unsatisfactory nature of the censorship in Egypt during the War has become a by-word, but Capper had no hand in the foolish things done by that régime. On the contrary, he was painfully aware of its shortcomings, and did his best to smooth matters. Indeed, those of us who in those troublous times had daily, almost hourly intercourse with that Section of Intelligence, preserve the happiest recollections of the genial personality whose kindly and cheerful disposition did more than anything else to lighten the troubles which the rules of the censorship set up for us in the accomplishment of our duty towards our principals.

Stewart Henbest Capper was such a modest character that few who met him for the first time had any inkling of the fact that in his own walk of life he was a distinguished man. But no one, after conversing with him for a while, could fail to be struck by his unusual qualifications, his high culture, keen intellect, and strong sense of humour.



Khartoum, January 7.

Political Prospects.

At the moment it may be said that the political horizon appears fairly clear and that the country can, with reason, look forward to a much brighter and more peaceful epoch. At the same time, it would be ridiculous to believe that the bursting of the bubble last November has entirely eliminated the possibility of a recurrence of political agitation and intrigue by Egyptian extremists in the Sudan. No one believes for a moment that the punishment meted out to the Egyptian nation by the British Government for the murder of Sir Lee Stack will be accepted with complacence, and it must be anticipated that if anti-British activities are commenced by any section of Egypt's population, such activity will surely revolve round the Sudan question.

Already emissaries of the Egyptian extremist party are said to be attempting to enter the Sudan with the object of fostering trouble and strife. These persons have, according to report, discarded the tarbush and the immaculate European dress, and are representatives of the Egyptian artisan class—painters, carpenters, and such like—with flowing gallabieh and fellahin headdress. With such clothes and a little above the average brain they can effect an entrance into the Sudan without difficulty, and can spread throughout the whole of the Northern Sudan without any immediate fear of arrest. Should such prove to be the case, a certain measure of success will obviously attend their efforts in the dissemination of propaganda. Many of the older generation of natives, who still suffer from a lack of initiative, a strong and inherited objection to work, intolerance of control, and an intense conservatism which is the natural legacy of slave owners, are really unappreciative of the Government's attitude towards them, and any anti-Administration propagandists with wily tongue will, with these people, find sympathetic and even eager listeners.

The Sudanese and Britain.

With the better class and more enlightened sections of the inhabitants the existing arrangements between England and Egypt present an anomaly they cannot comprehend. The two nations represent a control which is both good and bad. These sections of the people recognise the soundness of the British Administration, and that it is doing its very utmost to develop and safeguard the Sudanese nation. On the other hand, they know full well the type of Government the Egyptian nation represents, a knowledge based on past experience, when slavery was not only countenanced, but encouraged, and maladministration and exploitation of the inhabitants were general. They recognise that Egypt, subsequent to the reoccupation, is only a sleeping partner in the condominium, and takes no place in the actual administration of the country. They also recognise that this so-called partner has been endeavouring to undermine the present Government, to destroy law and order, and in attempting to gain this end has been responsible for the deaths of both British and Sudanese. Yet withal the Egyptian flag is permitted to fly from the mastbead on all Government buildings with the British. This is entirely beyond their apprehension.

The Story of Sedition.

It is understood that the authorities are gradually gathering together such evidence as will eventually provide a connected story of events dating from the visit of one of the Nationalist leaders, Mohammed Ramadan, to the Sudan early last year. The story will embrace the whole series of disturbances, the murder of Sir Lee Stack, and the mutiny of the 11th Battalion Sudanese—up to the present day. It will prove beyond all doubt that the Egyptian Nationalist or Extremist Party was entirely responsible for the whole trouble, and it is hoped that the publication of this official report will

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result in the hauling down of the Egyptian flag in the Sudan for ever.

Trial of Prisoners.

The trial commenced yesterday of some 72 prisoners. It is being held within the Central Prison at Khartoum North instead of the Mudir's Court in Khartoum. This procedure has been considered by the authorities as the best course to adopt, because, had these prisoners been marched through the city, their numbers and shouting would probably have resulted in demonstrations. This trial constitutes one of the largest ever held in the Sudan, and has naturally created considerable excitement. Among the prisoners are all those Sudanese and Egyptians arrested during the August and September demonstrations and those arrested as being members or influential abettors of the White Flag Society. The balance are those cadets of the Military School, already convicted, who mutinied inside the prison during the period of the evacuation of Egyptian units. These young men destroyed everything in the prison compound that was possible of destruction, and they refused to obey any order whatsoever from the prison authorities. No corrective action was taken at the time, presumably because it was thought that any measure taken to quell the mutiny would be the signal for the Egyptians to come forward and rescue their "brethren" from the clutches of the "overbearing British." Following the departure of these troops, however, British forces were drafted to the prison, and the prisoners quickly rounded up and placed in chains.

Although the trial is being held inside the prison building, where, naturally, the public is forbidden entrance, the proceedings are to be given full publicity, and with this object the local Press, both English and Arabic, has been invited to attend the trial. The proceedings are expected to last at least one week.

Arrival of Sir Geoffrey Archer.

The new Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Geoffrey Archer, accompanied by Lady Archer, arrived at Khartoum on January 5. He had travelled direct from Entebbe *via* Rejaf and the Nile. Owing to slight delays on the river his arrival was retarded for twenty-four hours. At 9 a.m. on Monday the steamer drew level to the Palace, and His Excellency stepped ashore, where he was greeted by the Acting Governor-General, Sir Wasey Sterry. On reaching the top of the steps, where a guard of honour composed of Sudanese troops were paraded, the National Anthem was played and a salute of seventeen guns fired. Sir Geoffrey, after inspecting the troops, passed through the Palace building and across the Terrace Garden, on the steps of which he took the salute whilst the National Anthem was again rendered. He then proceeded to the marquee, where he received the various senior officials of the Government, senior officers of the British Army, and the leading members of the commercial community. With the reception concluded he retired to the Palace and the various residents dispersed. The Governor-General wore the Colonial Office uniform.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 12.

The People's National Party.

M. Argetoianu, former Minister of Finance, and later Minister of the Interior, one of the most profound connoisseurs of the public finances and political life of this country, and the soul of the People's National Party, of which M. Iorga is the leader, has been good enough to express for THE NEAR EAST some of his opinions, which show in a new light the situation of the Liberal Party in Roumania.

Its Attitude Towards the Liberals.

Political life in this country, says M. Argetoianu, is represented by two great camps—on the one hand the Liberal Party and on the other hand all the other parties; and this has always been so. Properly speaking, according to M. Argetoianu, the Liberal Party is to be regarded rather as a group constituted with a view to important commercial enterprises, which, while they are of interest, by their development, to the country as a whole, create and maintain a very special link between the members of the party. The large banking enterprises and industrial and commercial companies, which are such powerful weapons in their hands, are at the same time the basis of their recognised (solidarity). It is, to use M. Argetoianu's expression, *une solidarité de caisse*.

The Liberals, then, "do business," while the other parties "make politics"—that is the difference.

As a matter of fact, the Liberal Party has always come to power with an economic programme as the basis of its activities. Until three years ago, says M. Argetoianu, the Liberals had sound ideas and a right conception of the most telling modes of action, and Roumania owes to them a great deal of her prosperity.

To-day, however, the Liberal programme has failed, and the fault, he thinks, lies with the Minister of Finance, M. Vintila Bratianu. It would, indeed, appear to be true that the plan of M. Vintila Bratianu, although carried out by him with a perseverance worthy of all praise, has not been the right one—that is to say, it has not met the very special needs of the after-War period.

M. Argetoianu points out the large place occupied in the pre-War programme of the Liberals by the sound ideas of M. Carada, the carrying out of which was always crowned with success. The death of M. Carada deprived the Liberals of the well of wisdom from which they had always drawn their strength in economic matters, and his was, therefore, a much-felt loss.

M. Argetoianu does not consider that the Liberal Party can endure much longer after its redoubt-

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able experiences during the last three years, and he predicts its fall—as far as it is possible to foresee such events, especially in Roumania—at the latest during next spring.

Foreign Capital.

It is interesting to note that M. Argetoianu has extremely broad ideas in regard to the collaboration of foreign capital in Roumanian enterprises. He favours an extensive collaboration, both for the realisation of the reform of the currency, which is necessary to the stabilisation of the leu, and for the alimentation of private industries and the exploitation of the immense natural riches of the country.

The investment of capital in Roumania might undoubtedly be of the greatest interest to those countries which at the present time possess the necessary reserves for the financing of commercial enterprises that offer some guarantees, for Roumania is a new ground, fertile and favourable to profitable operations both commercial and industrial. In the programmes of all the Opposition groups an important place is given to the introduction of foreign capital, and that is, indeed, one of the most noticeable; if not, indeed, *the* most outstanding point of difference between the Liberal Party and the others, for the well-known motto of the former is "By ourselves." It would appear, however, that this line of conduct does not correspond to post-War needs. Indeed, M. Vintila Bratianu has recently gone to Paris, and intends to go on to London, and one of the objects of his visits is, contrary to his professed doctrine, to try to raise a loan for the reconstruction of the railways. The result of his visits is awaited with interest, for, in case of a successful issue, an improvement might take place in the situation of the Liberal Party, and perhaps even some change in their political economic attitude, which would tend to keep them in power.

General News.

The Parliament, being still in vacation, provides no subject for comment at the moment.

The annual Christmas celebrations of the Orthodox Church took place, as is customary, amidst popular rejoicings, and the citizens of Bucharest are now resting after their efforts.

The various Opposition parties, however, appear to be manifesting a return to activity; indeed, the situation of the Liberals is becoming more and more difficult, according to the general opinion, and this may account for the feverishness which seems to prevail in political circles. Unfortunately, no formula has yet been found which would allow of the union, however precarious, of the Opposition parties which remain hostile to each other, and if one may judge from a recent public manifesto in the Press the Peasants' Party has even renounced for the moment its attempts at an agreement with the National Party.

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Jerusalem, January 3.

The Hebrew University.

The "Opening of the Hebrew University" just before Christmas was an extremely modest affair. Actually it was not an "opening of the Hebrew University" at all, but only the public inauguration of lectures organised by the "Institute of Jewish Studies" affiliated to the Hebrew University. The "Hebrew University," in the full sense conveyed by the term "university," is still only a scheme in the making. Very many years must elapse before the building on Mount Scopus houses sufficient faculties, professors, and undergraduates to show anything remotely resembling a university in the accepted sense. But in this, as in so many other things Palestinian, faith is accepted as a temporary substitute for fact. What, for the time being, this "Institute of Jewish Studies" is undertaking is simply three courses of free popular lectures on the Biblical text, Palestinian topography, and Talmud introduction. Perhaps the best parallel is to be found in the "Workers' Educational Association" run by university professors in England.

The Arab Parties.

No tangible progress seems to have been made in the Palestinian Arab camp. Some weeks ago the Arab Executive was confident that the National Party and Peasant Parties were on the verge of coming to such terms as would enable all to take part in a United Arab Congress. The weeks have gone by, and though amicable exchanges of opinion have been conducted between the Arab Executive and nominees of the National Party, no common working basis seems to have been reached; the National Party is not averse from the congress idea—but it would take part in such a congress only in a party capacity, and in order to press its own party programme—that of partial compromise and co-operation with the Government. The Peasant Parties are purely territorial, mainly concerned with making the best of things as they are, and they ignore or denounce the political schemes of their brother Arabs. The following document, published in the local Press as an open letter to the High Commissioner from the Nablus Peasant Party, may help to illustrate a portion of local Arab opinion. But how widely backed this opinion is it is quite impossible to say—and the same applies equally to the published views of the other Arab parties.

"Everybody in the country knows that the Arab Executive of the Moslem-Christian Association is not the representative of the Arab people living in Palestine, but is only the representative of a small group of the population, and that all the efforts of the Moslem-Christian Association and its Arab Executive to bring together the people to take part

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in the seventh Arab Congress have been in vain, owing to the lack of public confidence in these men. In spite of this, the Government recognises this Arab Executive as the representative of the Arabs, and treats it seriously as such.

"This is the business of the Government; it is doubtless moved by its own reasons.

"But we, the representatives of the fellahin, 80 per cent. of the total population of the country, do not recognise them as our representatives any more than we recognise this party which would provoke the population to extremism. Were it not for the position which they have assumed as representatives of the people in the face of the civilised world, and as leaders of the people, we should not have reached the depths to which we have descended; they are only interested in their own welfare, and the consequence of their self-assumed position of representatives is a lowered estimate of the worth of the Arabs of this land in the eyes of the entire civilised world and of the mandatory Power—as is proved by the notorious Memorandum of the Arab Executive and the Government's reply to it.

"This correspondence has filled us with feelings of sorrow and shame when we consider that the members of the Mandates Committee have seen the kind of chosen representatives of our country who make use of untrue facts; and the impression which this memorandum has made on the League of Nations is one that brings upon us, the inhabitants of this country, shame and contempt—if, in truth, they have taken these men seriously as the chosen representatives of the country.

"Therefore we appeal to Your Excellency to take notice that we, the delegates of the Fellahin, do not recognise the work of this Arab Executive in any matter or question that may arise, and we express our strong wish to work together with the Palestinian Government and with all communities and religions of the population for the general good of all who live in our country, so as to improve the condition, morally and materially, of the Fellahin, and to secure for them the necessary peace and tranquillity."

PERSIA.

Teheran, December 16.

The Situation in the South.

As anticipated in my last letter, the Sheikh of Mohammerah has eventually had to submit unconditionally to Sardar Sepah, although he was at first very little disposed to do this immediately on receipt of the Prime Minister's curt reply to his first telegram. Wiser counsels, however, prevailed, and the Sheikh was made to see the futility of any further resistance to the Central Government.

Sardar Sepah waited a few days in Shiraz for a reply to his wire demanding complete submission. Then, none being forthcoming, he left that place for Bushire, where, after inspecting the troops, he embarked and proceeded to the port of Bunder Dilam, some 100 miles further up the coast, going from there to Army Headquarters at Behbehan, and arriving at the front on November 28. From here he sent a *communiqué* to the Military Governor of Teheran advising his arrival and receipt of a further telegram from Sheikh Khazal apologising for the delay in replying to the Prime Minister, and reiterating his submission, and renewing his plea for pardon. The latter replied to this that he must come personally to meet him at headquarters, and this elicited a reply from Sheikh Khazal, couched in the meekest terms, stating his willingness to meet Sardar Sepah as soon as possible, but pleading illness as an excuse for not proceeding the whole way, and stating that he is sending one of his sons to accompany the Prime Minister from headquarters. The latter agreeing, he was met as arranged, and Sardar Sepah entered Ahwaz on December 5. Here, according to the official *communiqué*, he was received with much enthusiasm, and was accorded a great ovation from the inhabitants of the town, which was decorated for the occasion. Here he was met by the Sheikh and one of the Bakhtiari Chiefs, Morteza Kuli Khan (son of the old head of the tribe, Samsam es Saltaneh), who had thrown in his lot with him, and, in the picturesque wording of the Prime Minister's telegram announcing the fact, "begging for safety from me, they succeeded in obtaining it." This final act of submission over, Sardar Sepah left Ahwaz for a tour of inspection of the oilfields of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at Maidan-i-Naftun and Masjid-i-Suleiman, and, this accomplished, he returned to Ahwaz on December 15. In his wire from this place he states that, thanks to God, he now considers the question of Arabistan to be settled, and that until such time as order and tranquillity are generally restored, the expeditionary forces will remain, and that he has appointed General Fazlollah Khan Governor-General of the province, with power to appoint local military Governors and also tribal Governors. He concludes by saying that, his mission in that part of the country being concluded happily and order being restored, he would leave for Teheran on December 17 by way of Mesopotamia, so as to give him an opportunity of fulfilling his long-cherished wish of visiting the holy city of Kerbela, spending only a week in a tour of the sacred shrines, and adding that his journey through these parts would naturally be purely unofficial.

Thus Sardar Sepah (who, throughout this campaign, it must be remembered, has been acting as Commander-in-Chief and Minister in War, in addition to his position as head of the Government) has brought to a satisfactory conclusion a situation in the South which has for months past been most disquieting, affecting as it has in no small degree British interests, in view of the considerable amount of capital invested by the British Government and private individuals in the Anglo-Persian oilfields and the danger of the pipe-line being cut and other damages inflicted on property and machinery in the event of serious hostilities. It is but another instance of the ability of Persia's "strong man" to cope with internal disorders, thanks to the efficient armed force which he has been instrumental in creating, and great praise is due to Sardar Sepah for his strong action throughout and his personal direction of affairs on the scene. All is over now except the shouting, and of this there will undoubtedly be plenty when the Prime Minister returns to Teheran, for I understand he is going to be given a great reception on his return, and his welcome will be well merited.

Air Service to Russia.

Aeroplanes, which, before the advent of the British Army in Persia during the War, were practically unknown and unthought of in this country, are nowadays a quite common sight in the sky, and latterly the German Junkers Company, who have now a good number of planes here, have frequently been treating the inhabitants of the

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town to a series of flights and stunts which never fail to attract attention. I am told (though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement) that one of the last monoplanes to arrive from Enzeli carried two Persian ladies as passengers. This is indeed a strange innovation, and indicative of the rapid change coming over the hitherto supposed immutable East! The Junkers Company's latest venture is the inauguration of an air service for passengers between Persia and Russia, and the first aeroplane in this connection left Teheran this morning for Baku, stopping at Enzeli (the Caspian port) to set down passengers, and continuing after a brief interval. The journey to Enzeli by air is advertised as taking 2½ hours, whereas by car it takes two days on the average, and by this air service a passenger can be in Baku the same day as leaving Teheran, in comparison with the shortest time of three or four days hitherto. The cost, too, is unlike that in most countries, considerably less than by car or carriage in a country which boasts no railways, and Persia is, therefore, in the rather unique position of having an aerial service before a railway system! The Junkers Company state in their notice that they hope shortly to extend this air service to Moscow on the one side and across the interior of Persia on the other, via Ispahan due south to Bushire, thus connecting the Persian Gulf with the capital in a day or two, which, at the present time, even with the motor transport on the road, takes over a fortnight. This service, if brought into execution, will eventually bring India (five or six days by steamer to Bushire) within much quicker communication with Persia, and mails carried by aeroplane thence to Teheran should reach the latter place within little over a week, whereas by the present route via Basra, Baghdad, they usually take little less than a month. The air-mail service to Baku and Moscow (which I understand is contemplated in the near future) will likewise bring England into much closer touch with Persia, and should reduce the present time for postage from the average 17 or 18 days to something averaging the pre-War time of 10 days.

General News.

The British Minister, Sir Percy Loraine, who went home on leave last spring, arrived here last Monday afternoon, Mr. Ovey, who acted as Chargé d'Affaires during his absence, having left here some two weeks ago.

The Imperial Bank of Persia have put into circulation a new issue of bank notes, and these are a welcome change from the old notes, which have been in circulation for the past thirty years.

The Persian Government have recently added to their fleet in the Persian Gulf, which at present consists of an antiquated gunboat, a more modern vessel, the "Pehlevi," which they have had built in Germany, the armament being added and the ship completed in Italy. It was reported to have arrived at Bushire a week or two ago, but this is apparently not the case. It has not yet reached that port, though it is expected shortly.

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OBITUARY.

The death of Mr. John Ross, at Alexandria, removes a figure very well known in Anglo-Egyptian circles. He played a prominent part in helping the British when Alexandria was bombarded in 1882, and was officially thanked by the authorities.

The death occurred in Cairo on January 18 of General Sir Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, who was associated with Lord Kitchener in the Sudan Wars. He was Minister of War in the Sarwat Cabinet in 1922 and Minister of Pious Foundations in the Rushdi Cabinet from 1917 to 1919.

Brigadier-General William Hugh Wooldridge, C.M.G., late Indian Army, died suddenly on January 10, at the age of 56. He was commissioned in the Berkshire Regiment, and transferred to the 126th Baluchistan Infantry. He served in East Africa in 1895-6, and in Kurdistan in 1918-19.

The death has occurred of Sir Thomas Jewell Bennett, chief proprietor of the *Times of India*, and formerly M.P. for Sevenoaks, at the age of 72. It was in 1884 that he began his long and honourable connection with India. Under his guidance the *Times of India* became markedly prosperous, and later, in the House of Commons, his influence was of considerable value when Indian affairs were being discussed.

The death of Mme. Palli, one of the oldest British residents in Athens, occurred there last week. She was the eldest daughter of Sir Walter Wyndham Burrell, fifth baronet, of Knepp Castle, Sussex, and aunt of the present baronet. She was very well known in Athenian Society. Her marriage to Philip Alexander Palli, eldest son of Professor Alexis Palli, of the University, Athens, took place in 1881, and she was left a widow in 1892.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Hagopian, who died recently at Fulham, at the age of 78, was for twenty-five years an active member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Armenian Relief Fund, organised by the late Mrs. Madeleine Cole. At the funeral service at St. Augustine's, Fulham, on January 12, the Armenian Community of London and the Armenian United Societies were represented, and special prayers were offered in Armenian.

The death is announced of Dr. Casartelli, Bishop of Salford. In addition to his ecclesiastical distinction Dr. Casartelli was an eminent Orientalist. He first seriously studied the Orient at Louvain, under Professor Charles de Horlez. In 1884 he published a dissertation, in French, on Zoroastrianism from the third to the seventh century of the Christian era. Subsequently he contributed many studies of Oriental questions to various learned journals, and at one time he was co-director of the *Babylonian and Oriental Record*. On the death of de Harlez, Dr. Casartelli succeeded him, and for five years lectured at Louvain on Zend and Pehlevi. In 1903 he lectured to Manchester University on Iranian languages. He also was a profound student of Sanskrit, Hebrew, Syriac, Arabic, and other Semitic languages. Recently he had accepted the new Katrak lectureship at Oxford University, and was to have delivered there a first series of lectures during this month.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 22, 1925 (New Style).
January 9, 1925 (Old Style).
Jomada II., 26, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebeth 26, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala left London last Thursday for Paris.

Abdul Rahman Fikry, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation in London, arrived in Cairo last week.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught arrived in Delhi last week as the guests of the Viceroy.

Mrs. F. T. Hopkinson has unexpectedly returned from the Sudan (address, Rock House, Haverfordwest, S. Wales).

Lord and Lady Swaythling and Lady Macleod left London last Thursday to join the s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind at Marseilles for India.

Mr. Charles T. Allen, C.I.E., left London last Thursday to join the P. and O. s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind at Marseilles for India.

Lady Dorothy Mills left her residence, 91a, Ebury Street, last Thursday to join Captain Arthur Mills on a visit to the Near East.

The Chargé d'Affaires of the Egyptian Legation in London, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, has taken up his residence at Claridge's Hotel.

Ghaffer Khan, who for many years was Counsellor at the Persian Legation in London, has been appointed Persian Minister to Italy.

M. Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James's, arrived in London on January 14 from Whilton Hall, Northants.

Mohammed Fehmy Hussein Bey, formerly Counsellor at the Legation in London, has been appointed Assistant Counsellor in the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior.

The Crown Princess of Roumania has arranged to pay a visit to England. Her Royal Highness will arrive in London shortly, and her stay is expected to extend over a month.

Aziz Izzet Pasha, the Egyptian Minister to Great Britain, who arrived in Cairo from Zurich, according to a Reuter message, "has no intention of resigning his post, at least at present."

The will of Dr. M. Gavrilovitch, of Queen's Gate, South Kensington, the Yugoslavian Minister to this country since 1919 (estate in England) (net personalty, £1,448), has been proved at £7,541.

Hassanein Bey, formerly Secretary at the Egyptian Legation in Washington, who has been appointed First Secretary at the Legation in London, is expected to arrive from Cairo this week.

The Roumanian Minister in London returned to 50, Grosvenor Street last Saturday from Paris, where he attended the Conference of Allied Finance Ministers. Mme. Titulesco is remaining in France.

Mr. Spoor, M.P., Chief Labour Whip, who recently arrived at Cairo, sailed from Manchester in a cargo boat on December 24 on a visit to Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Cairo, Jaffa, and Jerusalem.

Dr. H. R. Hall, Keeper of the Egyptian Department of the British Museum, delivered a lecture on Egyptian Sculpture at a meeting arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society last Tuesday evening at the Royal Society, Burlington House, W.

On January 2, at the British Consulate, Cairo, and afterwards at the English Church, Heliopolis, by the Rev. A. W. MacMichael, M.A., assisted by the Rev. J. Thom, M.C., M.A., Captain Howard Greene, M.C., Royal Artillery, was married to Phyllis Mary, only daughter of Brigadier-General C. W. Compton, C.B., C.M.G. (late Somerset Light Infantry), and Mrs. Compton, of Zeitoun, Egypt.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mahmoud Sabet Bey has been appointed First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation in Rome.

The Yugoslav Government has appointed M. Jean Doutchitch its permanent delegate to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has elected as its President for the ensuing year Dr. Michael I. Pupin, who was born at Idvor, a peasant village in Serbia.

The King has appointed Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, Finance Department, Government of India, to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Mr. Atul Chandra Chatterjee, and Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habibulla Sahib Bahadur, member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras, to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Sir Mian Muhammad Shafi.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1925.

EGYPT'S PURGE.

In the course of conversation with a foreign correspondent, Ismail Pasha Sidky, the vigorous Minister of the Interior in Ziwar-Pasha's Cabinet, is reported to have stated that the British have nothing to do with the present struggle in Egypt, "which does not concern the cause of independence, but is simply a struggle between the forces of order and discipline on the one side and agitation on the other." It is well that this point should be appreciated, both in Egypt and elsewhere. Whenever, during recent years, an Egyptian politician has come forward to attempt to get on with the practical work of administering the country, he has been denounced by the Zaghloulists as being in the pocket of the British Government, and has been afforded little chance of proving himself a level-headed, patriotic Egyptian. Not until Zaghloul Pasha had clearly shown that his tactics were endangering the measure of independence that Egypt had already secured, and Ziwar Pasha stepped into the breach, has any considerable section of Egyptian public opinion stopped to think out the logical consequences of Zaghloulism. The murder of Sir Lee Stack, however, was so outrageous a crime, and the British ultimatum showed up the inherent weakness of Egypt's case, that the utter folly of continuing to adopt Zaghloulist tactics appealed at once to any really patriotic Egyptian capable of dispassionate thinking. There was no need for his view of the country's aims to differ from that of Zaghloul Pasha's; it was solely a question of the methods to be adopted in order to attain them—whether Egypt should try to make practical progress, or whether she should continue to run her head up against a brick wall. Thus there has been no official repudiation by any anti-Zaghloulist organisation of the Egyptian claim for the independence of Egypt and the Sudan (whatever the contradiction in terms that expression, as used, may entail); but definite steps have been taken to purge Egypt's administration of abuses introduced by Zaghloul Pasha, which must ultimately have brought the country once more to the *impasse* which led to foreign intervention under the Khedive Ismail.

There is nothing to warrant the supposition that Ziwar Pasha's purge has been undertaken at British bidding. It has dealt primarily with matters of personal concern to Egyptians—among others, the honesty and freedom of elections. In this connection a circular addressed by the present Government to provincial Governors is particularly eloquent, as it lifts the veil on a state of affairs initiated and encouraged by Zaghloul Pasha during the first days of Egypt's independence. At the last elections it would appear that electors were forced by means of an oath on the Koran, or by some other means of coercion, to vote for Government candidates; threatening letters were sent to them to the same end; electoral campaigns degenerated into mere mob demonstrations, headed by banners and music, and attracting boys and riff-raff, which proved detrimental to public security. There were much chicanery and falsification in electioneering literature, and newspapers were terrorised into publishing anonymous contributions. Finally, the elections were largely in the hands of students, who proceeded in bands from place to place, organising meetings and terrorising the unsophisticated electors. Ziwar Pasha's Government has decreed that in future students and schoolboys are to mind their own business. The courage entailed in this step can be gauged from the fact that under the Zaghloulist régime it was open to any group of students to organise a demonstration with the help of a Cairo mob, and virtually to force Zaghloul Pasha—still more so his subordinates—to do their will. Little wonder that Egyptians themselves have been found to denounce a régime that was making a farce of government and bringing the country into disrepute.

It follows, therefore, that even if the Ziwar Ministry is defeated at the coming elections, it will have made its contribution to progress by having couched its lance in the cause of good government in Egypt. There is a tendency in certain British quarters to view the whole outlook pessimistically, because no political party can be found to dissociate itself from the extravagant demand for the incorporation of the Sudan in Egypt, and because there is still a possibility of the Zaghloulists being returned to power. In the latter event there is no need to cater for trouble until Zaghloul Pasha makes it. The secessions from his party have been so numerous and important that he may find himself too occupied in holding his own in Egyptian politics to have much time for a further exhibition of foolhardy intransigence towards Great Britain. The last elections had left his political opponents negligible numerically; they are hardly likely to remain that in the next Parliament. Moreover, they will be able to command, unless the ballot works havoc in the anti-Zaghloulist ranks, a marked intellectual superiority. Great Britain's course is clear. She has been obliged to lay down certain rules for further negotiations with Egypt; if an Egyptian Government cares to negotiate on those terms, the whole situation can be reviewed dispassionately and a fresh advance in rounding off Egyptian independence can be made. If Egypt prefers, by placing Zaghloul Pasha again in power, to make further negotiations impossible, Great Britain will have to wait until the leaven already introduced by the Ziwar Ministry has had opportunity to influence a larger section of the Egyptian people.

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RECENT EVENTS IN ALBANIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ITALY.)

A counter-revolution in Albania during the last days of 1924 has resulted in the overthrow of the Government of Monsignor Fan Noli and the re-establishment in power of Ahmed Bey Zogu, victim of the revolution which took place last spring.

The ugly feature in Ahmed Zogu's success lies in the fact that the whole of the preparations for his counter-stroke were organised across the frontier in Yugoslavia. In Albania itself Fan Noli's Government had every appearance of a fair stability; and no doubt can be entertained whatever that had Albania been an island, Ahmed Zogu would never have had the smallest chance of returning to power.

The Yugoslav Government has categorically denied any overt participation in Zogu's preparations. Unfortunately, however, he was able to collect and to organise a large body of men within Yugoslav territory, to equip and arm them with rifles, machine-guns, several batteries of mountain guns, and abundant supplies of ammunition, and to attack Albania from three points across the frontier. It is true that in the mountainous regions of Kossovo the task of surveillance by the Yugoslav authorities is not an easy one. The inhabitants are mainly Albanians, and they are tribally organised and well armed with rifles, if not with guns. The general conditions of the district, as in Macedonia, can hardly be regarded as either civilised or peaceful. *Komitajis* continue to form and disband themselves beyond the regular control of the Yugoslav military forces. Certain features, however, besides the suspicious presence of machine-guns and guns in Ahmed's train, are difficult to account for on these premises alone.

The main attack started from Dibra, a garrisoned township in Yugoslav territory. Dibra is connected by a good road with Struma and Ochrida to the South and with Gostivar to the East. When the Conference of Ambassadors decided to allot Dibra to Yugoslavia, the main reason given (in spite of the injustice inflicted on the Albanian countryside in depriving it of the only natural market in this district) was that this road, connecting two important frontier posts in Yugoslavia should be left entirely in the latter's hands, in order to enable the Yugoslav military forces to keep order in this turbulent district, and to prevent incursions in and out of Albanian territory. But apparently the Yugoslav military forces have made no attempt to carry out this primary duty.

Moreover, during the first two days of the fighting, a field gun was actually in action from a point close to Dibra, firing across the frontier. Lastly, among Ahmed's forces a considerable number of non-Albanian volunteers were enrolled. The reports that many of these were Serbians, ex-officers and men of the Serbian army, must be regarded as untrue. It is more probable that they were composed of adventurers drawn mainly from the ranks of Russian refugees. The fact remains that among the shouts that welcomed Ahmed back to his capital were mingled the "Giva, Giva" of quite 300 Slavonic throats.

Monsignor Fan Noli, M. Gurakuqi, late Minister of Finance, together with all the chiefs of their party, have taken refuge in Italy. Monsignor Fan Noli had not shown himself a strong Prime Minister. Personal intrigue, which dominates Albanian politics, can only be held at bay by strong leadership, and in this Fan Noli must be held to have failed. His administration effected some notable economies, and gained some diplomatic successes, though he probably made a serious mistake in recognising the Soviet Republics; for he thus forged a handle for his enemies to wield. But no adequate steps were taken by him to ward off the gathering storm across the frontier. The Army was left after the spring revolution practically without any supplies of ammunition, and only at the last moment were any attempts made to remedy this defect by entering into negotiations with Italian firms for a considerable supply. The export of ammunition from Italy is free, provided certain formalities are adhered to, but the negotiations took a long time, as the Italian Government was unwilling to grant any special facilities in order that no one could say that it had departed in any way from its strict attitude of neutrality. Meantime matters in Albania came to a head.

The first attack was from the north-east. It was beaten back, chiefly by the aid of the old guerilla chief Bairam Tsuri. The attack in the south was little more than a feint. The main attack followed in the centre, and proved overwhelming. Ahmed is a good condottiero, and the Government troops were soon left with scarcely a cartridge to their credit. The loss of life was consequently inconsiderable. It is conceivable the situation might have been saved had the Central Government shown itself capable of taking decisions. Shefqet Korcha, the energetic Commander of the Gendarmerie, was the only man who might have saved the situation—but only when it was too late was he given the command, personal jealousies having intervened to prevent his appointment earlier.

So the curtain has been rung down on the second act of the Albanian revolutionary drama. The third act is likely to be no less dramatic; and one sincerely hopes it will prove the last. It is not probable that Ahmed Bey will be able to maintain himself for long. The former Prime Minister, Elias Bey Vrioni, who was associated with Ahmed before the spring revolution, and is no friend of Fan Noli, has refused to return to Albania with Ahmed and accept a post in his Cabinet. Elias's great virtue is his disinterested patriotism, and his action, therefore, is not without meaning. Ahmed lacks too much the confidence of the country at large, and he has no administrative gifts. Sooner or later we are likely to see his second eclipse. Even so, it is improbable that Monsignor Fan Noli will again be his successor. A stronger man is wanted, who is at the same time no less patriotic. Such Albanians do exist, and undoubtedly other opportunities will occur for such men to come forward before many months have passed.

To conclude. The triumph of Ahmed has been regarded in some circles as a set-back in certain respects for Italian diplomacy. This view is unwarranted, for Italy can boast of clean hands and of having stood loyally to her bargain, without the necessity of making this an excuse for any loss of prestige. Italy regards Albania with a certain amount of diffidence. She is doubtful whether the experiment of an independent Albania can succeed. But as long as it is not a proven failure Mussolini's Government wishes to remain aloof. Only the event of a real threat to Albanian independence would justify her departing from a strictly neutral attitude as between the various Albanian factions, even if one of them happens to rely on Yugoslav support. But if Albanian independence were really threatened, there is no shadow of doubt that Mussolini would act with the utmost energy. Meanwhile, he is not going to permit questions of a secondary import to disturb the good relations existing between his Government and that of M. Pashitch.

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TURKEY TO-DAY.

"Turkey To-day" was the subject of an address given before the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution on January 16 by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. Cornwall. The lecturer, who was introduced by Lord Peel, had had considerable experience of Turkey, for he not only commanded the British forces at Chanak, but had, since the Mudania Conference, made extensive journeys throughout Anatolia.

Colonel Cornwall began by sketching in the background of Turkey as it is to-day. The exchange of populations had created a difference in Turkey, which was hardly realised yet in this country. The Anatolian Greeks (who, incidentally, had little real connection with the Hellenes) had, before 1923, practically the whole of Turkey's internal running in their hands; they were merchants, cobblers, shopkeepers, carpenters, blacksmiths. Now all was different. You could not get a pair of boots repaired in Turkey at the present time—the lecturer had tried. These million of people whom Turkey had sent to Greece were her loss and Greece's gain; and it was a fact worth remembering, in anticipating the future shaping of events in the Near East, that whereas Turkey's population—now about 8,000,000—was declining, the Greeks already numbered 6,500,000. In speaking of the inevitable hardships in connection with the exchange of populations, which he had personally witnessed, Colonel Cornwall did not put down the sufferings of the Greeks to Turkish ill-will, but rather to apathy and to lack of organisation. Their own incoming Moslem brothers had been treated just as badly, and the case was on all fours with the treatment during the War of British prisoners.

The measures that the Turks had taken to realise their ideals—with which, by the way, the lecturer had considerable sympathy—were, without question, ruining the country. The Turks' dog-in-the-manger attitude really amounted to: "Even if we can't develop the country, we will not let anyone else do so." They would like to trade with the British, but feared our political influence. At the moment things were favourable to Germany, which obviously could exert no political influence. The interior of Anatolia was a desert. Thrace, whose pre-War population of 650,000 farmers was now decreased to 200,000, was rapidly declining. Communications were falling into decay; roads had become so bad that he recently had to make a journey from Constantinople to a town in N.E. Thrace by sea in a Turkish vessel! Railways built in the War were falling to pieces, and even the roads in Anatolia, which were built either by Germans or by Greeks, were now breaking up. Everywhere was evidence, in fact, of the essential incompetence of the Turk.

Colonel Cornwall then described a journey which he undertook in 1924 through Anatolia in company with his wife. This he illustrated with excellent lantern slides. He showed, notably, buildings in Konieh, Hittite monuments, the Troglodyte remains in Cappadocia, and the Cilician Gates, through which every army passing westwards had come from time immemorial. He paid a striking tribute to the fact of internal security, even in the heart of Anatolia. This he attributed to the excellence of the gendarmerie, who had achieved what had not been possible in the pre-Mustapha Kemal régime—the abolition of brigandage. He explained the efficiency of the gendarmerie of the country as compared with the police of the towns as being at least partly due to the fact that it had, when in Constantinople, been trained by British officers.

Turning to Angora, he pictured this as a mere village town of 30,000 inhabitants, and completely lacking in amenities. To its strategical position he paid, however, great testimony, and demonstrated it with lantern slides. The lands beneath it were malarial, and the breed of the famous Angora goat had been considerably diminished by the activities of the Greeks in the campaigns of 1921 and 1922. In Angora the Germans were extremely busy, and if they were allowed a free hand the capital might one day become a considerable city. The intention was to build roads and railways radiating from Angora in all directions.

In conclusion, Colonel Cornwall deprecated optimism in regard to the new Turkey. There were undoubtedly a few—but only a few—very charming Turks, and the peasant was always a decent fellow; but the practice of being imposed upon by the enthusiasm of these, which was extensively indulged in by journalists and propagandists (particularly ladies), was absurd. A wider experience of the country forbade extravagant hopes. He doubted whether the Ethiopian could ever change his spots; and whenever he met anyone talking of the arising of a new heaven and a new earth on the shores of the Bosphorus, he invariably thought of an old Turkish proverb, which he explained as meaning: "It's the same old bath and the same old bath bowl."

In the subsequent discussion Colonel Stokes expressed the view that Colonel Cornwall had been a little hard on the modern Turk. After all, he had been fighting continuously since 1911, and mistakes were inevitable. For our part, we had done little enough to encourage him, although it was cryingly obvious that the safety of our Indian Empire depended on the friendship of Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan. The anti-Islamic policy, which had for the last twenty-five years been indulged, was fatal; it was driving Turkey into the arms of Germany. In Berlin two mosques already were in existence; there was one in Paris; but what had Britain done? Afghan students eagerly went to Germany and France; were there any Afghan students in this country? The Foreign Office, as if in revenge for having been beaten by the Turks, showed consistent lack of sympathy towards the Moslem nations.

Lord Peel admitted to considerable affection for the Turks, but he thought that their present experiment in, for instance, abolishing the Sultanate and the Caliphate, and in expelling those on whom their industries depended, was an extremely hazardous one. The reaction in Moslem countries for Turkey's abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate was extensive, and particularly keen in India. In all probability, however, there would come about a change in Angora's attitude towards foreign Powers and towards foreign capital, because the policy of splendid isolation, though admirable enough in theory, in practice was more or less unworkable. Lord Peel also expressed sympathy with the diplomats who preferred remaining at Constantinople to residence at Angora, which lacked the amenities that so soft a type of man found essential!

The following five Conservative Members of Parliament—Major Boyd-Carpenter, Sir Victor Warrender, Commander Fanshawe, Mr. L. R. Lumley, and Captain Eden—arrived in Baghdad on January 17 on their way to visit the Anglo-Persian oilfields.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE INTERLUDE IN SANSKRIT DRAMA.

"PRIYADARSIKA," a Sanskrit Drama by Harsha, King of Northern India in the seventh century A.D., translated by G. K. Nariman, A. V. William» Jackson, Ph.D., and Charles J. Ogden, Ph.D. (New York: The Columbia University Press, 9s. net.)

The Sanskrit language stands unrivalled as a medium for expressing complex ideas, and has long had a peculiar fascination for philologists, although few are capable of mastering the subtleties of its diction and the extreme difficulty of its grammatical formation. Sir William Jones was the first European to reveal the beauties of India's classical tongue to his fellow-countrymen. But the British adventurers who flocked to India in his day were mostly intent on "shaking the pagoda-tree," and the finer intellects among them had more than enough to do in defending their mushroom empire. When at length the task of consolidation was complete, the torch of Sanskrit learning passed from British to German hands. It has now been seized by American scholars; there are Professors of Sanskrit on the staff of many Universities across the Atlantic, and the American Oriental Society collaborates with Indian pundits in producing ancient texts with a degree of erudition which should stimulate those who are responsible for the welfare of India to emulate their zeal. A translation of King Harsha's "Priyadarsiká," published at the close of last year by the Columbia University, is a triumph of scholarship of which America may justly be proud. The text is prefaced by an Introduction of 111 pages which sketches the Royal author's career, gives an exhaustive analysis of his greatest comedy, with a complete bibliography of the editions through which it has run. One of India's heroic eras lives again in these pages.

Harsha was the son of a King of Thaneswar, a petty State about ninety miles north of Indraprastha, now Delhi. On succeeding to the throne in 606 A.D., he embarked on an incessant warfare with neighbouring potentates, and became lord paramount throughout Northern India, Rájputáná and the Panjáb excepted. For forty years he governed an empire extending from Guzerat to Central Bengal with wisdom and toleration. But Harsha was much more than an able soldier and administrator. He zealously promoted education, and realised that his claims to remembrance by posterity should not rest on inscriptions graven on stone or metal, but be evidenced by the writings of men of letters attracted to his brilliant court. He was a poet and dramatist of distinction: it is possible that he had literary help in composing the plays which bear his name: but every scene displays the stamp of his personality.

"Priyadarsiká," a comedy in four acts, is a story of love and intrigue. Its eponymous heroine is a princess who has been brought captive to the court of King Vatsa Udayana, and is under the care of his consort, Vásavadattá. The monarch falls in love with Priyadarsiká, and declares his passion in an interlude enacted before the Queen, which purports to describe the manner in which he won his consort by giving her lessons on the lute. The rôle of Queen Vásavadattá is taken by her young protégée; but the King secretly assumes that of a lady-in-waiting who was "billed" to personify himself. The real issue of his acting is a revelation to the jealous Queen, who breaks up the performance in wrath, and casts her rival into prison. Priyadarsiká takes poison in despair, but is cured by King Vatsa's magic, and the curtain falls on an affianced pair.

This curious comedy exhibits many crude devices; every act is preceded by a scene explaining its action, which is further developed by the elephantine attempts at wit by a royal jester. But the "play within a play," which suspends action but leads up to the dénouement, was unknown to Greek and Roman playwrights. It indicates a considerable development of the dramatic art, and was used with great effect by Shakespeare in "Hamlet" and "A Winter's Tale."

F. H. S.

ARTIST-SPORTSMEN IN THE BAHR-EL-GHAZAL.

"FAR AWAY UP THE NILE." By J. G. Millais. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 30s. net.)

Mr. Millais has written this very thick volume, seen it through the press, and issued it with some fifty illustrations to the public within six or seven months. This *tour de force* has certainly enabled him to bring it out at a very opportune time, but the book (or, at least, the text of it) has had to suffer for the haste. For the very numerous and finely produced illustrations we have nothing but praise. They are from sketches by Mr. Millais and his son, who accompanied him. It is not a little wonderful to find this artistic talent already in its third generation. Most of the pictures are of the animals which they hunted and shot, while others depict the various human races found by them. All are exceedingly good, and infinitely better than the photographs with which we have become so distressingly familiar in books of this kind.

As to the letterpress, we have the usual big game hunter's chronicle, which tends to become monotonous. We make an exception for the things incidentally observed and noted, many of which are of interest. Here and there Mr. Millais has most lamentably allowed himself to be "facetious," with tragic results. And whole chapters are put together out of scraps from books, reports, and hearsay. It is here that we find ourselves wondering how far the "facts" recorded are accurate. It is a little disconcerting to be told on page 37 that the Sudan irrigation will all be done by water which would otherwise pass uselessly into the sea, and at page 75 to learn that not a drop of Nile water ever reaches the sea, though, as an afterthought, this last statement is said in a footnote to be doubtful. On page 174 we are told that the Nuer population numbers 320,000 in all. Five districts are enumerated in which these people live, and we are told that in *one* of them the Nuers have 150,000 huts. These are clear inaccuracies, and we fear that there are many others. Certainly our faith was severely tried when we read that, on passing through Paris this spring on their way home, they spent the afternoon and evening "enjoying the marvellous architecture of the Tuileries, surely the finest thing of its kind in Europe, and the collection of statues in the courtyard formed by the French Government."

C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Story of the Jewish People." Vol. III. By Jack M. Myers. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Wealth of India." By P. A. Wadia and G. N. Joshi. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 21s. net.)

"The Vanished Cities of Arabia." By Mrs. Steuart Erskine. With Illustrations by Major Benton Fletcher. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 25s. net.)

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ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

A report showing the progress of the plan for settling Armenian refugees has been issued by the Lord Mayor's Fund (Armenia), nominated by the British Government for this purpose.

The nature of the scheme is twofold, aiming in the first place at immediately relieving the Armenian refugees from Turkey who are destitute in Greece and elsewhere, and, secondly, making possible their absorption in the Erivan Republic, the native territory of the Russian Armenians in Southern Caucasia, which is to constitute the homeland of the entire people.

The report states that about 20 per cent. of the Armenian refugees from Turkey are destitute on the southern shores of Greece, chiefly in the Peloponnese. The remainder, about 40,000, are temporarily occupied in some sort of self-supporting employment. In Syria there are 120,000 refugees whose future is problematical. All classes of refugees need a permanent home. As the little Republic of Armenia in the Russian Caucasus has given shelter to about 300,000 refugees during the last few years, its capacity to take more is very limited, but can be sensibly increased if more land were irrigated for wheat-growing, and assistance were afforded for promoting industries such as cotton-spinning and fruit-canning. The report states that the average cost per head of settling the refugees is £15 per head for each settler already in Armenia, and £20 for each refugee brought in from outside; it recalls the fact that the present Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Asquith urged Mr. MacDonald last September, as head of the Government, to give a substantial grant to the work of settlement, and concludes that unless such assistance is forthcoming the work of succour will have to cease. Thousands of the sufferers will, it states, inevitably perish if the grant is not made.

A CRUISE TO GALLIPOLI BATTLEFIELDS.

The s.s. Ormonde, of the Orient Line, will make a cruise in the Mediterranean in May, when it is hoped to give the passengers an opportunity of visiting the Anzac and Helles battlefields. On the way to Constantinople the Ormonde will lie at Khelia Bay and land those who desire to visit Anzac, where at Gaba Tepe and "Z" Beach the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on April 25, 1915. The Ormonde will leave Constantinople on the evening of May 14, and, if the weather permits, passengers will be landed next morning at Cape Helles, the site of "Lancashire Landing," named in honour of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, and "V" Beach, where the River Clyde was beached. The Imperial War Graves Commission will provide guides for a visit to the cemeteries at Anzac and Cape Helles.

King Hussein was reported to have arrived last week at Maan, in the Transjordan, on his way from Akaba to Basra.

Reuter's Calcutta correspondent reports that Lord Lytton has certified the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Bill, designed to give effect to the Ordinance for the suppression of terrorism in Bengal. Leave to introduce the Bill was rejected by the Legislative Council on January 7, and its certification was expected.

His Holiness Mar Shimun XXI., Katholikos and Patriarch of the East, head of the Nestorian or Assyrian Christians, arrived in Jerusalem on January 12 to stay for a short period as the guest of the Anglican Bishop at St. George's before proceeding to England as the guest of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

NAVAL COMMAND CHANGES.

The following flag appointments were announced by the Admiralty recently :—

Rear-Admiral William A. H. Kelly, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., to be Rear-Admiral Commanding the 2nd Cruiser Squadron, in succession to Rear-Admiral Thomas D. Gilbert, C.B., to date May 15.

Rear-Admiral Francis H. Mitchell, C.B., D.S.O., to be Rear-Admiral in the 2nd Battle Squadron, Atlantic Fleet, in succession to Rear-Admiral William H. D. Boyle, C.B., to date May 3.

Rear-Admiral Kelly has been serving at the Admiralty since June last year, and was previously Rear-Admiral, 1st Battle Squadron, Atlantic Fleet. He will be remembered as the officer commanding the cruiser Gloucester in chase of the Goeben during the opening days of the War. In September, 1917, he was Commodore, 1st class, on board the Weymouth, and afterwards was at the head of the British Naval Mission to Greece.

This is Rear-Admiral Mitchell's first appointment since his promotion to flag rank in May, 1924. He gained the D.S.O. for services with the R.N. Division in Gallipoli. Later he was Naval Adviser at G.H.Q. of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. being commended for his work in the withdrawal from the peninsula, and also for service in Egypt.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, the Director of Civil Aviation, piloted by Mr. Alan Cobham, arrived at Calcutta from Allahabad on January 13.

An official decree has been published in Athens dealing with the purchase of Mussulman property in Western Thrace. It is hoped that the settlement of the question will help to bring about an improvement in the relations with Turkey.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Turkey and Foreign Capital.

A very significant note is now being struck by the Turkish Press in regard to the question of obtaining foreign capital, and the articles that have been published suggest that there is a growing realisation of the fact that the only way for Turkey to obtain external assistance on an adequate scale is by putting her financial house in order. As one journal very truly points out, it is not enough to invite the co-operation of foreign capitalists, for they will not accept the invitation unless they have confidence. It is further noted that recent tenders have met with an unsatisfactory response, and the inference drawn is that this is the result of Turkey's action in regard to the Galata Bridge tolls. Straws show the way the wind blows, and these lucubrations of the Turkish Press may be taken as an indication of a change of mind on the part of the rulers of the country. It may take some time for the leaven to take effect, but it is eminently satisfactory to know that there is now an increasing tendency to face the facts in Turkey.

M. Bratianu's Visit.

Considerable interest attaches to the visit of M. Bratianu to London. He is accompanied by M. Oromolu, the Governor of the National Bank of Roumania, and this week will see other important arrivals, including the chairman of one of the oil companies. This gathering naturally suggests the possibility of a loan, and one has been, of course, on the tapis for a very considerable time. The inference may also be drawn that the development of the Roumanian oilfields may come up for discussion, possibly in connection with a loan. Judged by the exchange, Roumania's position as regards a loan is not nearly so favourable as that of Greece, but it is impossible to make comparisons of this kind, for the two countries are essentially different in character, and the problems with which they have been faced since 1918 are quite distinct. Greece's troubles have been severe enough, but no country in the Balkans suffered in the Great War to the extent that Roumania did, and the present level of the leu reflects her difficulties in the work of reconstruction. But Roumania's resources, be it emphasised, both mineral and agricultural, are without a parallel in the Balkans, and her potentialities are unbounded, and if the question of an immediate loan is to be raised, there is not likely to be very serious difficulty in arranging it. In taking this view of the visit, it has to be borne in mind that Roumania still has great need of material for the work of reconstruction, and the only way of obtaining it speedily is through the medium of a loan.

Cotton Growing in Asia Minor.

It goes without saying that new sources of cotton supply are of very great concern to Lancashire, and it is interesting to note that within the next week a consignment of 1,000 bales of cotton from Mersina, in Asia Minor, is due to reach Liverpool. This is not the first shipment, for there have already been trial consignments, and these have given rise to the hope that in time Asia Minor will be able to make a considerable contribution to the world's cotton supplies. Appreciation of the possibilities of the crop has led to the establishment of a cotton-ginning factory at Adana, and it is estimated that the region which this centre serves is capable of producing very large supplies of cotton. It will be interesting to see how the present shipment is received on the market.

The Coming Budget.

It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Churchill's first Budget is awaited with a quite unusual degree of impatience. Last year's Budget gave relief in a number of directions, but not in those which the taxpayer feels. In fact, the effect of Mr. Snowden's changes may be said to have been negligible as regards the majority of people. This time, however, there is reason for hoping for something different. I am afraid that it is no good expecting such a substantial cut in the income-tax as 1s., but it seems quite reasonable to expect one of 6d., and of half that amount in the case of smaller incomes. Even that would not make the hard-hit taxpayer enthuse, but it would be something to go on with, and would certainly afford a most welcome relief. Still, we must wait and see, with this proviso, that anything less than this concession would be quite unthinkable.

The Empire Exhibition.

Prima facie, things are not going too well with regard to Wembley. As regards the participation of the different parts of the Empire, all would appear to be more or less plain sailing, but the converse is the case with regard to the home front. Three of the associations which were prominent last year in the Engineering section do not propose to participate on this occasion, one of them being the Motor Transport Manufacturers and Traders. Other schemes are proposed which will go some way to filling the gap, but the absence of these associations would be serious, and without them Wembley would not be the index of Empire potentialities that it must be if it is to be a success at the second time of asking.

COMMENTATOR.

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RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN YUGO-SLAVIA.

Links With the Adriatic.

The problem of reconstruction in the Near East resolves itself very largely into a question of communications. This is more especially so in the case of countries like Yugoslavia, where the position has been rendered more difficult by the necessity for co-ordinating the railways systems of regions hitherto distinct. The present position in this country is the subject of an informative article in the current issue of the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade by M. Zdravko Vaskovitch, who deals in detail with the question of railway construction in the State.

To-day, he states, the Serbian railway system is in a far better state than it was before the War, while the lines in the new provinces have also been put right, though the rolling stock has not yet been entirely repaired. *En passant*, he points out that the grave state of the communications was not wholly due to the effects of the War, for Yugoslavia found herself in possession of parts of five different railway systems, unconnected and constructed for purposes other than those they are now destined to serve. He continues :—

The greater part of the normal gauge system of Slovenia, Croatia, Slavonia, Srem, and the Vojvodina, which stretches over 6,000 kilometres, is nothing more than a piece cut off from the old Austro-Hungarian system, centred on Vienna and Budapest and having, as sole outlets to the sea, Trieste and Fiume. To-day these four centres are outside our frontiers, and the rest of this system is, so to speak, isolated. Bosnia and Herzegovina have a separate, narrow-gauge (0.76) system, which has but one good connection with the normal-gauge system, at Brod, and no connection at all with the Serbian narrow-gauge lines. Dalmatia, Montenegro, the old Sandjak of Novi Bazar, and the greater part of Southern Serbia have no railways to speak of, or are served simply by unimportant branch lines which have no connections with the interior of the country. Important and rich provinces have no railway connection between them; for example, Serbia is not joined up with Bosnia, nor with Montenegro, nor the Banat. Croatia and Slovenia have no junction with Dalmatia. The rich Banat is connected with the other provinces at one single point only, at Senta.

The provinces are not connected up with one another, and the lines which we have are divided up among the different parts of the country in a very unequal way. While on the one hand we have provinces such as the Vojvodina, which has as great a length of line per square kilometre as France, we have also territories such as that which includes Montenegro and the old Sandjak, of an area of 45,000 sq. kms.—that is to say, equal in size to some small States—which have no railways at all worth mentioning. There is only one connection, through Belgrade, by means of a single line of normal gauge. We possess nearly 1,000 kms. of coast on the Adriatic, and yet we have not a single line carrying thither the produce of the rich valleys of the Save, the Danube, the Morava, and the Vardar. We cannot, however, develop our economic life without these connections, and that is why our first task must be to create an outlet for the wealth of our land.

M. Vaskovitch proceeds to deal with the work of the past year, and states that some 820 million dinars have been spent on construction. Among the lines to be completed in 1924 are three of special importance—the normal-gauge line from Gratchatze to Knin, connecting the normal-gauge system with the ports of Shibenik and Split, the narrow-gauge line from Oudjitza to Vishegrad, connecting Serbia with Bosnia and giving the Serbian narrow-gauge system outlets on the Adriatic at Grouj and Zelenika, and the normal-gauge line from Titel to Orlovat, connecting the Banat with the Batchka. He urges that it is now necessary to begin the reconstruction of the different systems so that there may be an outlet through Yugoslav ports for all the national produce. He goes on :—

The work which must be done to this end is as follows :—A better connection between Croatia and Slovenia and Serbia and the diverting towards the south-east of the lines of this district which lead now in a northerly direction. The Liubliana—Zagreb—Belgrade — Nish — Skoplje — Salonika line, which represents the backbone of our national communication, has not at present an equal capacity over its whole length. The sector from Zagreb to Belgrade has the least capacity, although it is precisely the most important to us, for this line was built without regard for the present orientation of traffic, and this explains the presence of important bifurcations at Indjia and Vinkovtzi. The question of communications between Belgrade and Zagreb cannot be solved without a new line being constructed with a more direct route and a double track; a single line is insufficient. This new line would pass through Belgrade—Shabatz Bielina—Brtchko—Doubica (where it would join the Zagreb—Brod line), and would have a length of 310 kms. . . .

As regards the joining up of the interior with the Adriatic ports, we must, in the interest of a rational solution of this problem, emphasise the fact that our country is elongated in shape; the longitudinal axis is about 900 kms. long. Besides this, the Dinaric Alps lie parallel to the coast, and have a very restricted number of passes. For all these reasons it is impossible to connect our whole country to the Adriatic by one single line determined by consideration of the shortest and most rational route. On the contrary, we should construct several lines which would connect the whole country securely with the sea. These would be as follows :—1. The junction of the Rieka line to the port of Bakar; length, 12 kms.; cost, about 2 million gold dinars. 2. The line from Ouna—Bihatch—Zrmagnia; 87 kms.; 13 million gold dinars. 3. The Belgrade—Sarajevo—Metkovich—Split line; 668 kms.; 106 million gold dinars. 4. The Nish—Prishtina—Petch—Andrijevitza — Podgorica—Kotor Estuary line; 483 kms.; 190 million gold dinars, including the construction of a modern port at Kotor. 5. The Kragujevatz—Kraljevo—Mitrovitza line; 200 kms.; 35 million gold dinars.

A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE.

The s.s. Laconia, which left Liverpool for New York on Saturday last, is due to leave the latter port on the 31st inst. for a cruise of 10,000 miles in the Mediterranean. She will carry 700 passengers, and, on arrival at Haifa, the tourists will be allowed six days for extended shore excursions into the Holy Land. A three days' stay at Alexandria will enable the travellers to make a tour of the Valley of the Tombs and the ruins of ancient Egypt. Other places of interest included in the Laconia's itinerary are Madeira, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Algiers, Phaleron Bay, Constantinople, Naples, and Villefranche. The tour terminates at Cherbourg on March 28.

According to the *Tanin*, the name of the suburb of San Stefano, on the Marmara, near Constantinople, is to be changed to Yeshilkeuy ("Green Village").

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

GREECE.

Athens (undated).

Athens Water Supply.

A contract has been signed by the Greek Government with an American firm, the Ulen Company, for the construction of a reservoir near Marathon to collect the rain water in an area of 124 square kilometres. It is calculated that the supply will be sufficient to give to 800,000 inhabitants of Athens and Piræus 100,000 cubic metres of water per day in winter and 160,000 cubic metres per day in summer. This includes the water necessary for domestic, public, and commercial use.

The present water supplied to the residents in Athens has a hardness of 30 degrees and a temperature of 18 degrees, instead of 18 and 10 degrees respectively, which are supposed to be the absolute maxima. The number of microbes to the cubic centimetre is from 800 to 3,750, instead of an absolute maximum of 100.

The barrage to be erected will have a maximum height of 50 metres and a breadth at the base of 45 ins. The aqueduct will be 38 kilometres in length, of which about 28 kilometres will be underground. Four reservoirs will be built in the two towns to assure an equitable distribution of water, and they will contain sufficient water for two days' supply. It is expected that the work will be completed in about three years' time, and it is the first real effort to bring water to Athens since the time of the Emperor Hadrian. M. Yannadounis is to be warmly congratulated on his services to his country.

Cost of Living in Athens in 1924.

The Minister of National Economy has published the following statistics showing the cost of living during the last year as compared with the index number of 100 for 1914:—January 1,340, February 1,358, March 1,424, April 1,275, May 1,198, June 1,206, July 1,206, August 1,263, September 1,291, October 1,314, November 1,334, December 1,394. When it is considered that the drachma has depreciated ten times, it will be seen that even for holders of foreign money life is more expensive than in 1914, when Athens was known as one of the most expensive cities in Europe.

Installation of Refugees.

The Government has now arranged to take over the work of assisting the pauper refugees, thus leaving the Refugee Settlement Commission to carry out their work of installing the great mass of refugees in profitable productive work. In Athens and district the men of the labouring classes have practically all been absorbed, and are no longer a burden on the country. Very many women and children have also found employment in the numerous carpet factories, large and small, which have been erected. In fact, the absorption has been miraculous, and to-day no man who really is capable is out of work. There are, of course, many who are incapacitated, and women and children, who require assistance, who, in fact, will remain a burden on the country until the children grow up and the older ones pass away. The Government estimates that the sum of two hundred million drachmæ will be required still to house the urban refugees.

Budget Deficit.

The Budget deficit for 1924-5 is estimated at slightly under 1,000,000,000 drachmæ, and is to be met by the issue of 6 per cent. Treasury bonds. This is almost the equivalent of issuing paper money to meet the needs of the Government, and will adversely affect the exchange. It is hoped, however, that the United States Government will allow Greece to make use of the balance of credits unused by M. Venizelos, which action would have a beneficial effect on the exchange.

Aviation.

The Blackburn Aeroplane and Motor Company has signed a contract with the Greek Government to take over the Government workshops at Old Phaleron for a period of years, and to manufacture aeroplanes for the Government; also to train workmen so that at the termination of the contract the Government will be able to produce their own aeroplanes.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended January 16 was:—Gemsah, 18 tons (previous week, 8 tons); Hurghada, 3,265 tons (against 3,266 tons).

The Arbitral Court of Professor Borel, who has been appointed by the League of Nations to give judgment regarding the assignment of the Ottoman debt among Turkey and the States of the former Turkish Empire, was to hold a preliminary meeting on January 20.

The Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes announces that the amount of £5,902 is placed at the disposal of Lloyds Bank for the payment of the January coupons of the Five per Cent. Montenegrin Loan of 1909. The payment of those coupons is being made by Lloyds Bank and not by Messrs. Boulton Bros.

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EUROPEAN DANUBE COMMISSION.

Navigation Dues.

By a decision taken by the European Danube Commission in May, 1920, the tariff of navigation dues which had been in force since 1908 was increased by multiplying the amounts of the dues prescribed in 1908 for each class of vessel by the co-efficient 3, so that a ship of more than 1,500 tons net paid in dues 5.10 gold francs instead of 1.70 gold francs per net registered ton.

A decision of 1922 had the effect of substituting for the rate of 5.10 gold francs the rate of 10.9 paper francs per ton, but the European Commission decided in May, 1924, to return to the gold basis. On January 1, 1925, the co-efficient of 3, referred to above, was reduced to 2½, and the dues now chargeable (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) are as stated in the following extract from the tariff :—

(1) Every steamship or sailing vessel and every transport without exception which enters the Lower Danube will pay on its leaving Sulina the following specified dues per ton register :—Vessels loading or unloading in the Port of Sulina only—201-600 tons, 0.75 gold francs; 601-1,000 tons, 1.50; 1,001-1,500 tons, 2.25; over 1,500 tons, 2.75. Vessels loading or unloading up river—201-600 tons, 1.37 gold francs; 601-1,000 tons, 2.75; 1,001-1,500 tons, 3.50; over 1,500 tons, 4.25.

(2) Vessels coming in from sea and loading or unloading at Sulina only, without proceeding up-river, as also all river vessels loading or unloading in the port of Sulina, will pay a special supplementary tax of 50 gold centimes per ton register.

(3) Mail boats providing a regular postal and passenger service will be allowed a reduction of 60 per cent. on the dues set out in Article 1.

(4) Every sailing vessel or steamer, except the passenger and mail boats mentioned in Article 3, shall pay on its first voyage on the Danube in each year the full dues applicable to it under the terms of the present tariff. For each subsequent voyage effected during the same year she shall pay only 80 per cent. of the dues applicable. A first voyage in ballast does not confer a right to this benefit, the full amount of the dues having to be paid for a first voyage. This reduction to 80 per cent. is not applicable to the supplementary tax of Article 2.

(5) Every vessel loading in the roads at Sulina will pay a fixed due of 250 gold francs, and the lighters which bring them their cargo and which are not exempted by their small tonnage will pay 1.37 gold francs per ton register, as well as the supplementary tax of Article 2.

(7) Every sailing vessel or steamer and every transport entering the port of Sulina in ballast and leaving in ballast, as well as vessels ascending the river in ballast and also leaving in ballast, will pay a tax of 40 gold centimes per ton register. At the same time, vessels which ascend and descend the river in ballast, and then load in the port of Sulina, are subjected to the full dues applicable to vessels which have loaded at an up-river port. If they load exclusively in the roads they will pay, besides the fixed dues and the dues on lighters provided by Article 5, the 40 gold centimes per ton above mentioned. The navigation dues will be levied in French francs or in the currency of the country whose flag the vessel flies, German, Austrian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Turkish, and Russian being excluded for the time being. The rate of exchange of the currency accepted in payment will be fixed by the Commission fortnightly in accordance with the mean rate of exchange for such currencies during the preceding fortnight.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 31 : The arrivals of sultanas since the opening of the season is estimated at 39,300 tons, and the sales to date are put at 36,950 tons.

Business in sultanas since the middle of November to date has been on restricted lines, limited to some 2,800 tons shipped to Holland and Germany, about 120 tons to the U.K., and 250 tons to the States and Canada. Stocks at December 31 available for shipment are variously estimated at 7,000 to 9,000 tons. This quantity may be considered moderate, and not more than will be required for the world's demand up to next September, when the new crop will be available. At present local dealers are acting with reserve in not pressing stocks for sale, as climatic conditions obtaining this winter have so far been such as to give cause for apprehensions concerning all crops next season. We have had two long months of drought at a time when rain is expected and required, and complaints by farmers are general.

The stocks of figs in Smyrna and the interior are completely exhausted.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Polish Government has approved of the appointment of Assad Khan as Persian Minister at Warsaw.

Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., has been elected a director of the Huronian Belt Co., Ltd.

Captain R. E. Sassoon, M.C., director of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., Ltd., has joined the board of the Eastern Bank in succession to the late Mr. Meyer Sassoon.

Sir Robert Horne during his recent stay in Peshawar as the guest of the Chief Commissioner visited the Khyber Pass and afterwards took a run by car to Razmak, via Bannu.

The Bulgarian Government has instructed a mixed Græco-Bulgarian Commission to study and report on the position of Greek minorities in Bulgaria and Bulgarian minorities in Greece.

Mr. Howard Carter, having made a final agreement for the reopening of Tutankhamen's tomb, proceeded to Luxor on January 15 to commence operations on the 25th inst. The discovery of a tomb and passages of the Third Dynasty has recently been made at Sakkara.

The Roumanian Minister for Industry, who left Bucharest recently for Paris and London, has announced that his journey was being undertaken in connection with negotiations for the participation of foreign capital in Roumanian State enterprises, which are to be put on a commercial basis in accordance with the law recently promulgated.

Indian Army manœuvres began in Delhi on January 15 under the direction of Lieutenant-General Sir George Barrow, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, India. Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief, and all the principal staff officers, as well as Japanese and Afghan Army officers, the Nepalese Envoy, and several newspaper correspondents, witnessed the proceedings.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{7}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £ ...	25.22½	276-278
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £.....	25.22½	295-300
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	24.78-24.81
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5⅞-$\frac{15}{16}$d.
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.10-95.15
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	900-905
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342-348,000
Calcutta.....	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5⅞-$\frac{15}{16}$d.
Constantinople ...	Piastres to £	110	875-890
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.78-4.78¼
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	88.30-88.40
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	159-159½
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22½	115⅛-⅜
Sofia	Leva to £.....	25.22½	655-675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	41½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	338-340,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.70-24.90

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GREECE IN TRANSITION.

The Factor of the Refugees.

(From a Correspondent.)

In regard to none of the Balkan countries is the immediate outlook more hopeful than in the case of Greece. The difficulties with which the country has been faced since 1918 have been very great, but the indications suggest that she is well on the way to surmounting them, and that she will probably be the first country in the peninsula to approach the normal. Throughout Greece has remained solvent, and though it is not much over a year that the country has enjoyed peace, the figures for the ordinary revenue in 1924 show a balance on the ordinary expenditure, and with the proceeds of the Refugee Loan to meet the vast obligations imposed as a result of the resettlement of populations, it will not be surprising if the country goes rapidly ahead. As Sir John Stavridi pointed out at last week's meeting of the Ionian Bank, Greece is at present in a state of transition, and it is substantially because in her case reconstruction is only at the stage that it was in in 1919, as regards the Great Powers, that her currency is still depreciated and the cost of living is still high. Only firm guidance could have brought Greece safely along the hard road of reconstruction to the position in which she now stands, and, as Sir John justly pointed out, she has been fortunate in that successive administrations have faced the situation with courage and imagination. When the Refugee Loan came to be offered, facts and figures were adduced to show the strength of Greece's financial position, and it is certainly no exaggeration to say that the picture thus presented of the country came as a great surprise to many people. It would equally have been a surprise to quite a number if it had not been so, for if there is one thing certain about the Balkan countries it is the almost complete ignorance that obtains concerning them amongst otherwise well-educated people. Such is the influence of tradition, and the Balkan countries as a whole must share the responsibility for their not being understood, for they have laid the foundation for it as they wrote the pages of the history of their innumerable wars. The fate of the Refugee Loan aptly illustrates the effect of the appreciation by the British investor of the soundness of the country as a whole, of the abundant security of the issue, and of the progress that Greece has continued to make, despite the fluctuations of her fortunes. It was, in short, a certificate given by this country to the satisfactory nature of the general conditions in Greece, and it carries with it the lesson for other Near Eastern countries who will be requiring accommodation in the form of a loan in the future that the London market is always accessible to countries who can show a clean bill of financial health, and the converse is emphatically also the case.

Given freedom from external difficulties—a proviso which, unfortunately, history shows to be only too advisable in writing of the Balkans—it is possible to view the future of Greece with the greatest optimism. The country, it is true, lacks the factors which could lead to any great industrial expansion, but she has ample compensations in other directions—good agricultural land, a capable and industrious population, and an important shipping industry which has been in the past a great source of wealth and promises to be so again in the future. An excellent survey of the general position in the country is given in a recently issued brochure,* in which it is emphasised that Greece is an agricultural land and that her geographical formation and the variety of the climate favours the growth of a great many products. Wheat, currants, tobacco, olive oil, and wine are the principal products, the first-named of which is consumed locally, while the others form the principal articles of export. The writer points out that much still remains to be accomplished before the soil is fully exploited. He says :—

"According to rough calculations worked out by experts, there are to-day more than a million hectares of most productive areas which remain uncultivated. The individual capital will contribute immensely to the exploiting of these lands by the construction of anti-flooding, draining, and irrigation works, as well as by the drainage of the marshes. . . . The construction of such works, the wider propagation of the modern methods of cultivation, and the increasing of the means of communication will improve the sanitary condition of the inhabitants, and will allow the intensive cultivation not only of the grounds already under cultivation, but also of the vast and fertile plains of Macedonia, Thrace, and Thessaly, which remain to-day almost entirely unexploited. The productive power of these regions is far too great, and it is quite rightly expected that their intensive and proper cultivation will give a strong impulse both to agriculture and cattle-breeding, thus making of Greece a self-supporting country from an agricultural point of view, and allowing her to save a fairly big surplus for export abroad."

Sir John Stavridi, at the meeting already referred to, laid great stress on the prospects in Macedonia and Thessaly, where he said there are more than two million acres of the most productive soil under the sun which are still waste and devastated as the result of the successive wars. Greece, he pointed out, has at her disposal a margin of population for this cultivable land in the million refugees, and in them undoubtedly lies one of Greece's principal hopes for the future. The problem of their settlement has been one of finance, which has been finally solved by the Refugee Loan, and henceforward we may expect them to make an ever-increasing contribution to the prosperity of their country. It has been agreed that the hardships which they have endured must have resulted in lessening their capacity; but while this may have had some effect, there is no reason for thinking that it will seriously prejudice the outlook. This view is amply borne out by the latest report of the League of Nations Refugee Settlement Committee, in which reference is made to the activity and vitality of most of the settlers, while a most satisfactory testimonial is given to them by the National Bank as "active, honest, and mindful of their liabilities and keeping faith with the bank and any third party concerned. They have introduced new methods of cultivation, as well as improving some of the methods already in use, and have increased the productive capacity of the districts where they have settled." That speaks for itself, and is abundant cause for hope in the future.

The address of Messrs. Herbert Green and Co., Ltd., has been changed from 83, Pall Mall, S.W.1, to 50, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

The address of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt (London Committee) has been altered from 57½ to 111, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, in consequence of the renumbering of the street.

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*"Greece: Economic and Financial." By D. E. Protecdicos, Secretary of the National Bank of Greece. (Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd. 1s.)

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Shipping Intelligence.

TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

A Better Outlook.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., Ltd., of London, in their half-yearly report on oil-tanker chartering, state :—

The period under review has seen tank steamer rates of freight fall to very low levels with improved conditions during the declining months of 1924, caused by firmer and more stabilised prices in America for petroleum products, which had the natural effect of giving confidence to the foreign buyer and stimulating business in all classes of oil.

Tankers built to Lloyd's classification during the twelve months to October last amounted to 18 of 82,706 tons gross. Tankers afloat in July, 1924, had a gross tonnage of 5,243,238, as compared with a gross tonnage of 1,478,988 in July, 1914. In October of this year there were building throughout the world 43 steamers and motor ships for the carriage of oil in bulk, each over 1,000 tons and totalling 290,220 gross tons. Of these 22 of 133,820 gross were under construction in the United Kingdom and 11 of 95,500 gross in Germany. For the year ending December, Lloyd's returns show a total of 50 tankers under construction with a gross tonnage of 309,270.

Nearly 30 per cent. of steamers building are being fitted for oil burning, and the total number of steamers so fitted is now over 17 million tons gross, as against barely 1½ million tons gross in 1914. The popularity of the Diesel engine as a means of propulsion continues to increase, and of all tonnage building at present, about 60 per cent. is fitted with internal combustion engines; whilst of tankers building, roughly 75 per cent. are being so driven. This large percentage is largely due to the whole-hearted adoption of the internal combustion engine by American and Scandinavian owners. The initial cost of the internal combustion engine, coupled with the greater cost of upkeep and greater difficulty in adequate technical supervision, outweighs in the minds of many owners the marked saving in oil consumption and extra carrying capacity of motor ships.

Bunkering facilities throughout the world have been greatly extended, but the disparity between the price of oil and the price of coal keeps the bulk of tramp tonnage to the older form of combustible. The present shows no signs of any substantial fall in fuel oil prices, and many owners who favoured oil have returned to coal.

The number of European countries continuing to make great efforts to ensure their supplies of oil by legislation and other means is to be noted. The world's production of crude oil continues to increase, owing to intensive drilling stimulated by the ever-increasing world demand for petroleum products. Russia and Roumania both report increased production, whilst no limit at present can be seen to the possibilities of Persia. In Mexico the oil situation is somewhat critical, but to offset this the remarkable developments in Venezuela and adjacent republics can be mentioned. In spite of lower production in California, the United States figures remain in the neighbourhood of the two million barrel a day mark, which is about the daily average demand for crude oil made by the refineries.

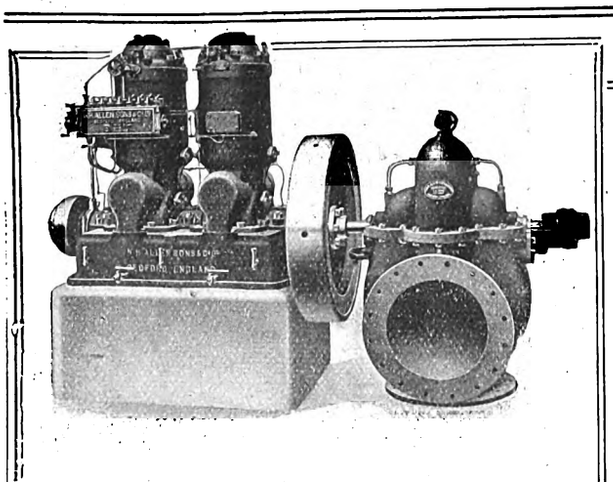
The traffic in crude oil between California and the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic seaboard refineries shows a further decline, and the daily average of crude oil arriving at the Atlantic and Gulf ports in November was about 95,000 barrels. In spite of this decreased traffic, which at one time absorbed a great proportion of American flag tankers, it has been found that European tanker owners have not experienced any marked competition from American tank steamers in the Trans-Atlantic trade. This is due in a measure to the longer voyages tankers are now required to perform to transport oil to the four corners of the world.

Enormous over-production in 1923 made itself felt in unstable prices through a great part of the year, but by the autumn American stocks were reduced owing to record summer consumption of gasoline in that country, and prices have hardened during the fall of the year. In August the gasoline consumption in the United States itself was the largest ever known, and amounted to about 820 million gallons, whilst foreign demand is also increasing, but in a lesser degree. Firmer prices are now ruling and expected to continue.

Tank steamer owners herald the New Year with considerable confidence. The immediate outlook shows no reason for any drop in freights from their present remunerative level, in spite of a very considerable visible building programme.

Representative rates of freight in the principal markets are to be noted as follows :—

Time Charter.—As high as 10s. on the d.w. was paid for a handy clean steamer, but for the crude



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and/or fuel oil trades a number of boats have been taken at 6s. 9d. to 7s. 1½d. for 12 to 18 months, and this remains the market rate. Diesel vessels commanded from 11s. to 8s. 3d. on the d.w.

Northern States of America.—As usual, the amount of tonnage fixed from the Northern Ports has been on a small scale compared to the Gulf. The main demand is for lubricating oil carriers, and rates have varied from 25s. to 29s. to U.K. Continent, whilst Trieste took a boat at 30s. For clean oils we may instance as high as 34s. for North Spain, 45s. for Rio de Janeiro, and 35s. Marseilles. 27s. 6d. was paid for Lisbon.

Gulf of Mexico.—Again has the tanker of 7-8,000 capacity for cargo had the preference for clean oils, and the larger sizes to 10,000 tons for dark oils. In former trade the highest paid for U.K. Continent was 37s. 6d. and the lowest 20s. The Mediterranean not east of West Coast of Italy gets tonnage at about 2s. 6d. more, and Scandinavia pays from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. extra according to port of discharge. Helsingfors has paid 35s. for April. Black oil freights have, as usual, been on a lower level, the highest paid being 28s. 6d. Hamburg, or 27s. 6d. other Continental ports. Bergen paid as low as 21s. 6d., and Copenhagen 23s. 6d., whilst Toulon figures vary from 22s. to 25s. and West Italy 25s. to 31s. 6d. Port Said took a boat at 24s. Gulf-Buenos Aires was recorded as having paid $6.75 in August.

Mexico to United States Refineries.—In spite of decreased production in Mexico recorded elsewhere, there has again been considerable movement of crude oil. Tampico-New Orleans varied from 13½ cents to 15½ cents per barrel, whilst Tampico-Philadelphia paid from 23 cents to 30 cents, with Boston and Fall River 1 to 2 cents per barrel more. Chile recorded fixtures at from 60 to 65 cents.

California.—Lessened production and lower volume of shipments. San Pedro to New York fluctuated between 65 cents and 72½ cents per barrel. Wellington (N.Z.) paid from 80 cents in September to 92 cents in October. A fixture of 45s. per ton spirit is recorded to Hamburg.

Russia is making efforts to stimulate the export of oil, and a considerable volume of chartering has taken place. For refined oil and/or spirit the lowest paid was 19s. and the highest 32s. 6d. to U.K. Continent, with 1s. extra for Hamburg if used. A fixture of a large boat for Vladivostock took place at 61s., Kerosene with a return cargo of bean oil to U.K. Continent at 70s. Tanker rates for lubricating oil to U.K. Continent varied from 21s. to 27s. 6d.

Roumania has done little chartering, but a handy boat can get 37s. 6d. for spirit to U.K. Continent.

Creosote.—A fair volume of tonnage has been fixed and rates have been pretty well stabilised on the basis of 12s. 6d. for 7,000 tons from two ports to one port, or vice-versa, with 1s. to 1s. 6d. more, according to quantity for each additional port used and 1s. per ton increase or decrease for each 1,000 tons one way or the other. These rates hold good for Northern Atlantic as well as U.S. Gulf ports. A fixture of 9,000 tons to three ports Pacific Coast at 31s. 3d. can be noted.

A Turkish concern has been awarded a concession for the construction and operation of a narrow-gauge line from Samsoun on the Black Sea to Charshanba, a distance of 28 miles (says an American Consular report). A three-year option on the construction of 72 miles more of line was also granted to the concessionaire.

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. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 27). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 28).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 30); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Venice for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 28).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 31). M.s. Sycamore for Galatz and Braila (the first steamer of the season for the Danube) (Liverpool, February 7). S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 6); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Beyrout, Jaffa, and Haifa (Manchester, January 31).

M. Tsamados, the Greek Minister to Yugoslavia, has had an interview with M. Markovitch, the acting Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs, in regard to the forthcoming negotiations for the renewal of the Treaty between Yugoslavia and Greece.

According to the Meshed correspondent of the Allahabad *Pioneer*, the mysterious disease which recently appeared on the Perso-Afghan frontier is abating. The Persian doctors believe that the number of deaths has been exaggerated, though undoubtedly many died.

The Barsi Light Railway Company states that the 50,000 Six and a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Convertible Preference shares of £10 each, offered to the shareholders and Debenture holders, have been oversubscribed, and that allotment letters are being posted.

The Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., have been informed by cable from America that the United States Golf Association have decided after all not to introduce a new standard golf ball as had been intended this month. The American standard ball is at present the same as the British, with a minimum diameter of 1.62 inches and a maximum weight of 1.62 ounces. The new proposal, consideration of which has now been deferred for twelve months, was to increase the size to a minimum diameter of 1.68 inches, and to decrease the weight to a maximum of 1.55 ounces.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*MASSILIA, Jan. 30. *CIRCASSIA, Feb. 27.
*ELYSIA, Feb. 11. *OLYMPIA, May 13.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Quiet but Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended January 8, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been quieter, but the undertone has remained firm. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $0.80 down for January, $0.55 down for March, $0.35 down for May, $0.15 down for July, $0.90 up for November. Ashmouni : $0.50 down for February, $0.60 down for April, $1.25 down for October. There is not much news to give about the market this week; the demand from abroad has been rather restricted, but prices keep firm, mainly owing to the bullish sentiment which prevails here, and which must be principally attributed to the strength of the statistical position. The available supplies at present in Egypt may be estimated at about 3½ million kantars, a figure about equal to the quantity of cotton shipped during the period from January to August last year. We do not think that it is an exaggeration to assume that we shall ship during the remaining eight months of the season at least as much cotton as last year, if one considers that the visible stocks abroad are about ½ million kantars less than at the same time a year ago, and that the world textile conditions are, in general, much improved as compared to those which prevailed during last year. January has now lost its importance, and March has become the most active Sakel position; apparently most of the business transacted has been for speculative account. February Ashmouni has been in good request, and we believe is rather oversold. November and October new crop have been fairly actively dealt in this week, many of the operations being purchases of November against sales of October. The present difference between Sakel and Ashmouni old crop has apparently tempted some operators to speculate on the narrower new crop difference. The week's receipts amount to 215,125 krs., against exports 259,454 krs.; the stock stands at 1,919,730 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of quiet markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales for the five business days amount to about 15,700 bales, of which we estimate 6,000 bales Sakel, 5,900 bales Uppers, 3,400 bales Zagora, 50 bales Brown, 300 bales Pilion, and 50 bales White. Demand from spinners has been only moderate, especially for Sakellaridis.

Sakellaridis : As for some time past, the demand continues mainly for the grades above fully good fair. The other grades have met with a very limited inquiry. Spot premiums are without quotable change for fully good fair and above, and have eased somewhat for the lower grades. It is becoming more difficult to buy good stapled cotton in the grades from fully good fair upwards.

Upper Egypt and Zagora Lower Egypt have met with a good inquiry for all grades except the very low qualities. Spot premiums are unchanged for the grades from good fair upwards, the good grades being very well held. The lower grades have eased a little.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done. Spot parities are unchanged except for good, which is rather stiffer.

Brown and white have met with a very poor inquiry, and only a very small business has been done. Spot parities of brown are unchanged except for good, which is dearer. In white, premiums for spot are generally easier.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Market Very Quiet.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 14 :—

Egyptian Spot.— The slight improvement in spot conditions referred to in our last report failed to hold, and the past seven days have been very quiet, with prices showing a sagging tendency. At the moment, spinners do not appear to be making much headway. The majority are comfortably supplied with cotton up to March, and prices are not such as to encourage them to engage in further commitments. In the meantime, prices have fallen away for lack of fresh support, and F.G.F. Sakel is quoted to-day at 1¼d. below the highest point reached so far this season. A period of quietness, such as we are now undergoing, is quite a normal turn of the wheel, and was more or less to have been expected after the heavy buying which took place at the end of the year. Spinners are still receiving large quantities of cotton, as witness last week's forwarding figures of over 16,000 bales, and a certain period must inevitably elapse before the trade will be compelled to come into the market again. That they will come again is certain, and, in our opinion, any drop in values which takes place in the interim will be more than recovered. The statistical position of Egyptian cotton this season is too strong, and the selection of Sakellaridis in our market too poor for it to be otherwise.

Sakel has been in only moderate request, but holders are not giving anything away, and buyers search in vain for the officially recorded drop of 75 points which has occurred this week. For anything over F.G.F. very stiff prices are being asked, and the selection, for the time of the year, is most disappointing. For example, although Good Sakel is quoted to-day at 30.50d., we doubt very much if it can actually be purchased at a penny over this price. For the grades below F.G.F. there is practically no offtake. Uppers have been in good request, and prices for this cotton show rather more irregularity. A fair business has been transacted. Pilion still continues to attract notice, but either the prices asked are considered excessive, or spinners lack courage to commit themselves, for no business of weight has been reported. We cannot but think that this cotton will come into its own later in the season. A small business has been done in Sudan cotton. Other growths have been neglected. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 9th instant, were returned as 16,493 bales. Estimated sales, 1,700 bales Egyptian and 250 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 75 to 95 points. Uppers and Brown are reduced 35 points for Extra Fine, and 15 points for all other grades. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 29.25d.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital : Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended January 10 states :—

Business has fallen away somewhat during the past week as compared with the two preceding it. There has been no lack of inquiry, but it has been difficult to transform it into actual orders.

Yarn.

In American yarns spinners of medium counts have had a fairly satisfactory week, but business in the coarser counts is not so good. On balance, perhaps, the market is a shade weaker. Quotations for the finer Egyptian yarns are such as to render business almost impossible, but a fair amount goes through in the lower qualities. Substitutes for Sakellarides cotton are being sought and, it is said, found. Were it not for the large orders booked some time ago, this section would be in a very difficult position, and the outlook, when they run off, is not reassuring.

Cloth.

There has been no feature of special interest in this section. A miscellaneous business of only moderate extent has gone through. As usual, India has sent the bulk of the inquiry, but the result in orders booked has been disappointing. Trade with China is sluggish, but for numerous smaller outlets a useful number of contracts have been placed day by day.

Raw Cotton.

An active business has taken place in Liverpool, and imports have been on a large scale. American has lost the gain it made last week, and New York seems to have been the source of the weakness. On the other hand, the price of Egyptian has again been very slightly increased, but, as previously reported, the position here is abnormal, and there is much uneasiness as to the future. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American middling, 13.03; Egyptian fully good fair, 30.20.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Westminster Bank.

The net profits of Westminster Bank, Limited, for the past year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts and all expenses, amount to £2,913,501 18s. 7d. This sum, added to £568,479 15s. 8d. brought forward from 1923, makes available the sum of £2,581,981 14s. 3d. The dividends, 20 per cent. on the £20 shares, and 12½ per cent. on the £1 shares, absorb £1,287,886 9s. 6d. £100,000 has been transferred to bank premises account, £300,000 to rebuilding account, £200,000 to contingent fund, and £100,000 to staff provident fund, leaving a balance of £594,095 4s. 9d. to be carried forward.

Imperial Bank of India.

A cablegram has been received from the central office of the Imperial Bank of India giving the figures for the half-year ended December 31 last. These show that the net profit was Rs.49.05.800, against Rs.49.13.400 for the corresponding figure of 1923. Adding Rs.21.52.800 brought forward, the available total is Rs.70.58.600. The governors have declared a dividend of 16 per cent. per annum free of income-tax, absorbing Rs.45.00.000 (the same), and have transferred to the Reserve fund Rs.10.00.000, and to the pension fund Rs.3.00.000 (both these amounts being unchanged), leaving to be carried forward Rs.12.58.600, as against Rs.10.21.200 a year ago.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.

The report of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company for the year ended September 30, 1924, shows net earnings of Rs.1,77,69,475, against Rs.1,68,53,685 for 1923. The company's share is Rs.1,04,96,764, against Rs.98.67,000. The rates of exchange were above that of 1s. 4d., the book rate, and adding the gain in remittance—namely, £34,466, the net earnings are £734,250, against £662,650 in 1923, when the gain in remittance was £4,850. After bringing forward £157,281, providing for corporation and income taxes, interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, contribution to provident fund, £35,000 for sinking fund for redemption of capital in 1982, £30,000 to reserve and making other adjustments, the amount available is £341,752. The directors recommend a final dividend of £5 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent. on ordinary stock, subject to tax at 2s. 5d. in the £, carrying £157,127 forward. Dividend and bonus will make 13 per cent. for the year. The gross earnings show an increase of Rs.10,62,214, the working expenses an increase of Rs.1,46,424, and the net earnings an increase of Rs.9,15,790. Coaching traffic increased by Rs. 1,25,864, goods traffic by Rs.6,62,968, steamboat earnings by Rs.1,09,323, and sundries by Rs.1,61,679.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Paper and Stationery.—The Ministry of Finance, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of paper, stationery, and various other allied goods required by the Central Stationery Stores Department during the year 1925-6. February 2. (D.O.T.)

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two English tons of candles. February 3.

Mirrors.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for double reflecting mirrors, complete, and spare mirrors for same. February 9.

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping plant. February 15. (D.O.T.)

Uniforms.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms required during the financial year 1925-26. February 20.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 metrical tons Portland cement. February 21.

Printing Plates.—The Surveyor General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium lithographic printing plates required for 1925-1926. March 18.

Roumania.

Turbo-Generator.—The Municipal Electric Works of Timisoara (Transylvania) invites tenders for the supply of a turbo-generator, Scott transformers, a high-tension feeder, and various accessories. March 26 (D.O.T.)

Locomotives.—H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. Charles Goodwin) reports that a firm has approached him asking to be furnished with quotations for a locomotive. The type of locomotive required is about 70 h.p. (D.O.T.)

Weighing Machines.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of weighing machines. January 30. (D.O.T.)

Porcelain Insulators.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of porcelain insulators, sleeves, and plates. February 3. (D.O.T.)

Sulphate of Copper.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of sulphate of copper. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Sacks.—The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt invites tenders for the supply and delivery at the port of Smyrna of 400,000 sacks. March 15. (D.O.T.)

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
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(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - - - - **Rs. 4.57.50.000**

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital £2,000,000**
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund £2,750,000**

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BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

Branches:
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Telegraphic Address:
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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London :

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
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COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(PhilippineIslands)

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THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, **DEPOSITS OF MONEY** are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors :
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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

EGYPT.—Alexandria, Cairo, Port-Said, Suez, Tantah, Zagazig, Mansourah, Musky (Cairo), Assiut, Beni-Suef, Minieh.
SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

London Agency:

6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

Branches in all the Principal Towns in

EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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No. 716—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Case Against M. Raditch.

It is not unusual in the Balkans when a State trial is pending for the Government to publish its case against the defendant instead of waiting for the formal indictment in Court. In keeping with this custom, the Yugoslav Government has published a memorandum purporting to have been written by M. Raditch to the Soviet authorities to notify them of a draft agreement drawn up between himself and a Hungarian diplomatist. From this document it appears that M. Raditch during his stay in London in November, 1923, met an unnamed Hungarian, and drafted with him an agreement on behalf of the Croat Republicans that was subsequently repudiated by the Magyar Government. Only the actual proceedings in Court can establish whether M. Raditch's action in this instance is more treasonable than other lapses on his part, for it is already well known that he openly favoured a republic for Croatia, and that not only was he in communication with Moscow, but that he also went there. The purpose of the "agreement" was apparently to secure the goodwill of Hungary for Croatia's efforts to win autonomy and to bespeak her support for the Croatian Republic-to-be. Hungary was to recognise the Republic as soon as it was recognised by any Great Power, and was to conclude with it a political as well as a military defensive alliance. In the event of Croatia and Serbia coming to terms, there was to be a commercial treaty with Hungary embodying complete economic reciprocity.

Treason or Pose?

In view of the attitude of Serbia towards Hungary, it is natural that this agreement should be regarded by the Serbian public as rank treason. Others who are able to approach the subject more dispassionately may find it difficult to decide whether a man in Raditch's position, who at that stage in Yugoslav affairs spends six days in drawing up such a document, was really plotting treason or merely adopting a pose in order to impress his Soviet friends for purposes of his own. The fact remains, however, that he is, or has been until now, a power in Yugoslavia, for at the last elections he polled 473,000 votes as against the 562,000 of M. Pashitch's party, or 21.8 per cent. as compared with 25.6 per cent. of the total number of votes. Whether his popularity in Croatia will be proof against the revelation of the "Hungarian agreement," the near future will show; but he has certainly placed a useful weapon in M. Pashitch's hands. With his elimination the Croatian question will not be solved, although it ought to prove easier of solution, with good will on both sides; but it is conceivable that, unless the Belgrade Government is prepared to meet the Croats halfway, a more rational and less stupid politician than M. Raditch at the head of the Croatian Party would prove a more serious thorn in the Serbian flesh.

Montenegro.

An Exchange telegram is responsible for the statement that two members of the Yugoslav Government have recently returned from a visit to Montenegro, and are recommending certain measures designed to pacify that country. Among the recommendations is an amnesty for political offenders in Montenegro, and it is added that King Alexander has already signed a decree granting an amnesty to over two thousand Montenegrins. A second recommendation, the reconstruction of five thousand houses alleged to have been burnt down as reprisals against revolutionaries, it is said cannot be carried out for lack of funds. Reference has already been made in these columns to the apparent desire of M. Pashitch's Government to make its peace with Montenegro, but it may be advisable to await confirmation of the Exchange telegram before it is accepted *au pied de la lettre*. What would seem to be required now is that someone who is trusted by the Montenegrins should take upon himself to advise them to respond to the overtures now being made. Burying the hatchet is not a favourite pastime in the Balkans; but it is obviously prudent for the Montenegrins to come to terms while there are still enough of them left to benefit by a compromise. The Serbs, unless we are mistaken, are anxious only to make sure that for all practical purposes Serbia and Montenegro shall speak with one voice in all Yugoslav Councils; the Montenegrins, on the other hand, are prepared to be loyal to Serbia

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if full recognition is given to their nationality. The two claims are easily reconcilable.

Greece and Bulgaria.

The danger of friction over their respective minority grievances was recognised by Greece and Bulgaria when their representatives at Geneva drew up a protocol providing for foreign supervision in regard to minority matters. Unfortunately, the Greek Government appears to have made up its mind not to ratify this protocol, and almost inevitably the accusations of maltreatment of minorities bandied between the two countries tend at once to increase in bitterness. In view of the charges brought against it, the Bulgarian Government has clearly taken the right step in asking the Mixed Commission of the League of Nations to make an inquiry in the districts where the persecutions of Greeks by Bulgarians are alleged to have occurred. Why the Greek Government should forbid its delegate to take part in the proposed inquiry is not clear. The proper body for an investigation into the charges is obviously one on which foreigners are serving as well as a Greek and a Bulgarian representative, and such is the constitution of the League of Nations Mixed Commission, which is on the spot, even if it was brought into existence for a different purpose. If these persecutions are taking place, it is difficult to understand why any Government should prefer to see them continued for one day longer rather than afford its nationals the protection that an international commission of inquiry is bound to give them, at least during the period of investigation. Bulgaria might have been within her rights in regarding an international commission as an encroachment upon her sovereign privileges; but when she invites one to investigate the charges brought against her, it might have been expected that Greece would at once accept the proposal or suggest an alternative commission of inquiry.

The Greek Police.

An interesting experiment has been in progress for some time in Greece—the training of policemen under a British officer. Until last week the British-trained police had been confined to the towns of the Piræus, Patras, and Corfu, but they have now made their appearance at a few important points in Athens, where the regulation of traffic is becoming a problem for the municipal authorities as a result of the rapid increase in the population of the capital. Now that the success of the Greek experiment has been established, it is to be hoped that it will be imitated in other Balkan countries. Traffic problems may not be so pressing elsewhere, but every State would benefit by having an efficient police force entirely removed from the sphere of politics, which, although necessarily under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior of the day, would not be looked upon or used as a political weapon in the hands of the Administration, nor be subject to changes in its higher personnel with every change of Government. Such a police force in each country would be an important factor in the introduction of more stable conditions throughout the Balkans.

Another Republic.

The number of Near Eastern Republics has now been increased to three by the proclamation of the Albanian Republic. After the Armistice Albania continued to be a monarchy in name, but syndicated the office of Sovereign in a Council of Four known as the Regency. Tentative invitations to the Throne were issued, but the only offer received, if report be true, was from an enterprising American millionaire. In the meantime the centrifugal tendencies of the Albanians manifested themselves and played as much havoc with the Regency as with the Albanian people. The monarchy in commission proved unworkable, and Ahmed Bey Zogu has terminated the farce by proclaiming a republic. The decision to postpone for seven weeks the election of a President and the election of a new Parliament is a sound one. If Ahmed Bey Zogu himself becomes President, he will have avoided the charge of having rushed his election on the heels of his successful invasion of Albania. So far as is known, the recent change of Government was effected with little or no participation of the Albanian people as a whole. Ahmed Bey Zogu and a small force marched into the country from Yugoslavia; Monsignor Fan Noli at about the same time marched out. There were reports of artillery in action, on one side; but it may be inferred that Central and Southern Albania remained completely indifferent to the proceedings in the North. Ahmed Beg Zogu's task will be to deter any part of the country from lending its ear to the promptings of those who wish to turn him out. Probably the best way will be to give every part of the Republic the sense of participation in the Government by forming a real Coalition Cabinet, which will cry halt to rebellions and turn its attention to Albania's material needs, which are legion.

Desert Arithmetic.

The long-deferred elections in Iraq have met with a further postponement, this time because the returns show an electorate of over nine million voters in a total population of three million. Except in the case of armies in the field, the tendency in the East is usually to under-estimate numbers in view of the connection between a census and the payment of taxes. In Iraq, however, either the tribes must be moved by a sudden enthusiasm for constitutional government or the Sheikhs must have decided that the moment is opportune for magnifying their importance in the eyes of the Baghdad Government. The suggestion that the electoral returns would have to be used as the basis of any future poll-tax would probably produce an abundant crop of amended returns; but the Government has rightly decided to proceed on more regular lines, and is instituting a general inquiry into the matter. The incident illustrates one of the difficulties experienced in introducing Western innovations into the East. It is particularly to be regretted that there should be any further delay in the meeting of the Iraq Parliament, as there is much business of an important character awaiting its decisions.

INDIA.

Lord Reading on Bengal.

The Viceroy's speech at the opening of the legislative session in Delhi has been noticed rather widely in this country, and his observations regarding the murder conspiracies in Bengal were honoured with headlines by journals which, as a rule, tell their readers very little about Indian politics. We cannot find anything new in his remarks, unless it be the explicit statement that his Council was unanimous, but we do not complain of the lack of novelty. India is still very slow to appreciate unpalatable facts, and, as we have recently urged, the great need just now is to go on repeating them until the lesson has been learned. We must wait for the proceedings of the Assembly to know the progress made in that direction, but there are some indications that the attitude of portions of the anti-Government *bloc* has been modified since last year. The *bloc* was never homogeneous,

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though it could on occasion present an aspect of unanimity, and, while the stalwarts probably stand where they did, some of the weaker members seem to have been doing a little thinking during the recess. The process may not lead to anything just yet, or at most to a few cases of slight fever about division-time, but at least it will add to the interest of the session now in progress.

The Exchange Position.

Lord Reading's references to the position of the rupee, supplemented by Sir Basil Blackett's speech on the same topic, make it clear that stabilisation is again a question of practical politics. On the whole we think there is wisdom in the decision to wait just a little longer, for most authorities agree in holding that the discount on sterling will shortly vanish, and, when the pound is again worth a sovereign, the rupee can be linked to it with much greater confidence than when its value fluctuates. At the same time we feel some sympathy with the insistent demand of Bombay to settle the matter at once. The Finance Member practically admitted that the value of the rupee is at present subject to bureaucratic regulation when he stated that the Government purchases of sterling were motived by the desire to control the level of internal prices, and that is too dangerous to go on for long. There is very much to be said for a policy of effective stabilisation, and there is a little, just a little, to be said for the alternative of letting the rupee find its own level, but there is nothing whatever to be said for a position where a gentleman, or for that matter an archangel, sitting in an office should be able to pull the rupee now this way, now that, on the strength of his ideas of what will suit the country best.

The Economic Inquiry.

A point of some interest in the Viceroy's speech was his announcement that the Government is moving towards that inquiry into the economic condition of the people for which educated India has been clamouring for so long. The inquiry itself is not yet, but there is to be a committee to inquire about having an inquiry, so we may say that the reluctant bather, after shivering for some time on the brink, is now dipping his toes into the water to see whether it is really as cold as it looks. Our own view is that the task ought to be faced promptly, however difficult it may be. The questions whether the national income is rising or falling, and of the rate of its movement, lie at the root of almost every problem now before the Administration, and a glance at the futilities which witnesses have recently been unloading on the unfortunate Taxation Committee will convince anyone that even professors of economics may be utterly in the dark on this matter of fundamental importance. As a matter of fact, something like nine-tenths of the required information is probably already on record in blue books which the professors have not read. To set out that information clearly, and to collect the odd tenth, is not really so stupendous an undertaking as the official spokesmen have argued.

Greece has been informed officially that the new Albanian Government has proclaimed a Republic.

Orhan Bey has returned to Turkey from London to take up his new appointment at the Turkish Foreign Office at Angora.

Princess Marie of Greece has given the French Geographical Society more than 50,000 books on geography which belonged to her father, the late Prince Roland Buonaparte, who was for nearly 15 years president of the society.

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the death of General Gordon at Khartoum, the council of the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union on January 26 placed upon the statue erected to his memory in Trafalgar Square a wreath.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Earl of Oxford.

The honour that has as much as any, perhaps, been thoroughly merited has at last been accepted by Mr. Asquith; he has consented to become the Earl of Oxford. The whole matter is one for congratulation—upon those who made the award, upon the recipient of the award, and upon the choice of the award.

There is something peculiarly heartening in the survival into our time of one who is both a first-class politician and a cultured Englishman, for the cases that may be cited. as instancing the latter, of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, hardly include the first accomplishment. The thinking part of the nation is indeed proud of Mr. Asquith, and would never forget him if it were only for his dignified steadiness in the quaking days of 1914. It has been said, in fact, that future historians will estimate him as the greatest Premier since Pitt. Whatever be the ultimate fate of Liberalism, there is little doubt that, with Earl Grey and the Earl of Oxford together in the Lords, its strength there will be as the strength of a hundred men. No party can boast two such eminent counsellors as these.

Mr. Asquith.

It is a little pathetic to see the pang with which the Radicals are saying farewell to "Mr. Asquith," the last of the Gladstonians, and the welcome with which the Tories are greeting "the Earl of Oxford." The former seem almost to think that a link has been broken, the latter that the chain has been repaired.

Standing outside both parties, one observes all this with gratification, for is it not the sincerest tribute to this quintessential Englishman's greatness? It is not for nothing, one may be sure, that the *Morning Post* can be induced, or, rather, be eager, to express the opinion that Mr. Asquith is to-day "the most popular man in England."

This new honour will scarcely, in the great Commoner's estimation, be "a plum": yet it is good to repeat that for the cracking of this walnut he still (as the Spaniards say) possesses sound teeth. For the historic title will certainly receive a worthy adorning.

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Mr. Lloyd George and the Tories.

Against the impregnable walls of the Conservative Party the sharp flying arrows of Mr. Lloyd George, despatched from the Liberal wallet, do but blunt their noses. The temporary leader of the Liberals now likes to talk of the torpor of the present Administration, during which, as he confides to us, our enemies are insidiously violating our integrity. As far as one can discover, Mr. Lloyd George's bogeys at present are landlordism and drink—an obsession that implies a reversion to his early type. The Liberals, if they are to be taken seriously, must do better than this: surely they can see that Mr. Lloyd George's wildest words disturb not in the least the serenity of the Tories.

Mr. Baldwin's Pipes.

Whatever one may think of the Prime Minister's political leadership, one is forced again and again to admire the ease with which he conducts non-political gatherings. At such affairs he proves himself to be the homely Englishman. Last week, for instance, he dissociated himself for all time from the merely wealthy politician, the cosmopolitan frequenter and the financial hobnobber by declaring simply and unconcernedly that he had never paid more than three shillings for a pipe. Round so distinguished a man as this how can the democrats restrain themselves from swarming? His disclosure of this fact, together with his simultaneously expressed approval of the cross-word problem, should, indeed, secure him the backing of the whole country.

Meat Rings.

The evidence given last week before the Royal Commission by the magnates of the meat business was of engrossing interest; yet even more engrossing, one imagines, was the evidence which was given in private. Quite bluntly, these big meat men created the worst possible of impressions, and their protests against ignorant judgments on the part of the public failed to get home. Considerable surprise and disappointment were caused by the decision of Sir Auckland Geddes, the chairman of the Commission, to close the sessions to the public just as the core of the argument was being approached. Doubtless he knows best how to get the information that the Royal Commission desires, but it did seem regrettable that these extremely wealthy men, who, on their own assertion, exist but to serve the public, should be unable at the critical moment to take that public into their confidence. It is always so very difficult, when something is hidden, subsequently to deny that there was something to hide.

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The All Blacks.

The all-conquering New Zealanders have come and gone, preservers of an unbeaten record. They had, it appears, a very good time here, and if hospitality could permanently efface anything, the hospitality that they received, both officially and unofficially, in the last few weeks must have effaced the very painful impression that the sending off of one of their forwards at Twickenham caused.

In any case, that occurrence is no subject now for any but futile comment: the fact remains—it is a proud and glorious fact—that they return to New Zealand knowing that they have beaten fairly and squarely every team that the Mother Country could put up against them. It is a record of which men will talk in years to come, and one that cannot well be eclipsed.

Cricket.

Never in the peace-time history of our Empire can any hours so terrible as those which Gilligan, Freeman, and Strudwick endured last week while waiting to bat for England have been passed by any man. There is nothing in any game quite so bad as the waiting for one's innings at cricket when the world is looking at you. And that these three men failed in the endeavour which must have been the highest in their lives but makes one's sympathy with them all the keener.

As all the world now knows, England lost the third Test (and, consequently, the Ashes) by the narrowest of margins, but, as the world also knows, English cricket has been reinstated in its prestige. To prattle about the luck of this last Test is the most foolish thing possible: to exploit the confidence gained through it is the great thing. Personally, I should not in the least be surprised to see Australia lose the last two Tests.

While everyone was spending sleepless nights and, in the early morning following, spending countless pennies in discovering, through the evening papers, how the Test match was going, an unpleasant controversy broke out—and eddies of it are still discernible—about the relative merits of amateurs and professionals in cricket. In some speech Lord Hawke said, among many wise things with which every cricketer will agree, notably, his strictures on the disgraceful, absolutely inexcusable, criticisms of Parkin upon the choosing of the Test teams, these words: "Pray God no professional may ever captain England." As soon as one read these words one foresaw the storm of criticism that would inevitably follow.

It has been explained that Lord Hawke is a poor speaker, that no man has done more for the lot of the professional than he, that no man has done more for English cricket generally, and so on. This is all perfectly true; the fact remains that he uttered this extreme stupidity. Other eminent cricketers have been quick to assert the true attitude of the amateur towards the professional: which is—precisely that of the professional towards the amateur. "If he's the best captain, he's the best captain. That's all about it."

The Eclipse.

The eclipse on Saturday, the like of which, we were told by the newspapers, had not been seen for 200 years, turned out to be rather a frost. Round London, at any rate, it interfered in no way with normal activities, and there was none of that eeriness and stirring of primeval fear which characterised the eclipse of 1912. The War seems to have changed everything!

ALTER EGO.

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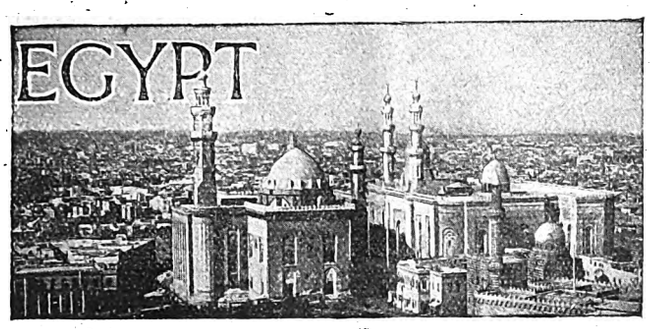
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, January 17.

Tutankhamen's Tomb.

After nearly a year's suspension of work a settlement has been arrived at with regard to the tomb of Tutankhamen, and both Mr. Carter and the Egyptian Government are to be congratulated at having contrived to put an end to an incident that from a scientific as well as a public point of view should never have been allowed to assume the proportions it did. There is little doubt that the personality of the Wafdist Minister of Public Works, who pushed his xenophobia to the limit of having all the china used on his Administration's steamers and in its rest-houses scrapped because they bore inscriptions in European characters, was in great measure responsible for the antagonism that crept into the controversy, and it speaks volumes for the more reasonable attitude and sympathetic personality of the present Cabinet that, without abating one iota of the requirements of the Departments concerned, they have managed to come to an arrangement which Mr. Carter felt he could accept.

Archæology benefits by this termination of the delay which the work has suffered, for the objects still left within the tomb cannot in the interval have escaped deterioration. The filling-in of the tomb entrance with earth is by no means a sure protection against the outside atmosphere, and the sooner the objects pass into the chemist's hands the more certain will it be that these treasures will be preserved. The resumption of work is also a subject for rejoicing for the hotels, which have suffered very much by the competition of other resorts, and now feel that the knowledge that it will be possible to visit this much-advertised tomb with a Government permit during the next couple of months will serve as a useful counter-attraction.

The Electoral Campaign.

The electoral campaign continues apace, and a new element has appeared in the field in the shape of a new party called *Al Ettehad* (Union), having exactly the same object as each of the three other parties—viz., the complete independence of Egypt and the Sudan—but proposing to attain it by different methods, such as, for instance, internal reforms. It is understood that a very large proportion of the Independent candidates have joined the new party, and it is expected that the remainder will declare their adhesion as soon as the elections are over, so that *Al Ettehad* does not lack support. But neither it nor the organ of the same name that was launched the same day seem so far to be making any great mark. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the party lacks a head, and the paper has as yet no proper journalistic staff. It is true that, owing to the imminence of the elections, things had to be done in somewhat of a hurry, but one would certainly have thought that by this time it would have been possible to remedy what is a most serious defect in any political organisation, and must constitute an enormous handicap to a party at its birth.

Meanwhile great activity is being displayed in combating the Wafd, and daily more defections are reported. The most sensational has been that of Mohamed Said Pasha, followed by Ismail Sirry Pasha, Abany Pasha, and Yussuf Wahba Pasha. These, particularly the first named, are bound to influence the electorate, as well as other candidates, and by the time the general elections take place it is possible that the Wafdist list will have become considerably less.

The preparation of the lists is being feverishly carried out, but, in spite of all the efforts, it will not be possible to complete the work by the 20th instant, the date originally fixed for the primary elections. These are about to be postponed to February 4—which will entail an alteration in the dates for the general elections and the opening of Parliament, which will now take place on March 12 and March 23 respectively.

The Wafd, which appears to be much distressed by the development of the situation, is trying to make great capital out of this postponement, which it alleges has been ordered by the Cabinet in order to further its own political ends. It is generally admitted that the non-Wafdists would stand a much better chance of victory if a longer period could have intervened before the elections, but no stretch of the imagination could persuade any reasonably-minded person that the present change in dates could have been prompted by purely political considerations. Fifteen days, which is the extent of the postponement, cannot furnish any material advantage to any political party. Had it been for two months the Wafd might have had some justification for complaint, and its present grievance is merely another illustration of its perverse and desperate frame of mind.

The following is an analysis, based on official

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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statistics, of the status of the Wafd and non-Wafd candidates in the forthcoming elections, viz. :—

	Wafd.	Anti-Wafd.
Government officials: past and present	18	36
Lawyers	44	53
Doctors	11	6
Engineers	1	5
Teachers and Ulema	1	6
Omdas	7	34
Notables	106	171
Merchants	12	9
Sundries	4	5
Total	204	325

BULGARIA.

Sofia, January 21.

Criticism of the Government.

This week the Sobranye meets, and various economic questions will be discussed. Of late there has been a growing inclination on the part of the Opposition, and even amongst certain Governmental circles, to criticise the Government on account of the rise in the cost of living. The fact that wheat has had to be imported from abroad has in particular caused adverse criticism, while the danger of bread's growing dearer is another matter which greatly concerns public opinion. The Government has defended itself against its critics by arguing that in most European countries the cost of living is becoming dearer. This is true, but it is not much of a solace to the private citizen. However, the Opposition is, comparatively speaking, so small and so disunited that the Government runs no risk of being defeated in Parliament. But the spring is not far off, and the various subversive elements which delight in troubling the peace of the country will very probably try to exploit the economic situation for their own ends. In unofficial circles connected with the Government, there is talk of a Cabinet reconstruction specially designed to deal with economic and financial matters. At present there are several able economists who are not in the Government, and whose advice has unfortunately very often been disregarded. Whether it will be decided to include some of these economists in the Government depends on the spirit which reigns amongst the Democratic Entente during the coming session. At present the tendency seems to be towards carrying on without any changes.

Greek Minorities in Bulgaria.

Since the New Year, there has been much talk regarding the persecution of Greeks living in Bulgaria. The Athens Press has published many bitter attacks on the Bulgarian authorities for their alleged brutal conduct towards Greek subjects. Upwards of fifteen incidents are stated to have occurred, and the Greek Legation in Sofia has made several protests to the Bulgarian Government. The latter, whilst deprecating the attitude taken up by the Greek Press, has let it be known that it is perfectly willing for an inquiry to be held, and forthwith invited the two neutral delegates of the League of Nations, Colonel Corfe and Commandant De Roover, to investigate the alleged persecutions. It is believed that the two delegates in question were to have begun their inquiry this week, but the Greek Government appears to have taken exception to this, saying that no inquiry is necessary or possible, as the facts are already proved. Such an attitude on the part of the Greek Government cannot fail to produce a painful impression in Bulgaria. This country maintains that, if the Greek case is as strong as it makes itself out to be, then it has nothing to fear from an impartial inquiry. In addition, the Bulgarians resent being accused of having persecuted minorities and not being able to get an impartial tribunal to pronounce on the veracity of the accusations.

Relations between Greece and Bulgaria are unhappily becoming steadily worse. Feeling on both sides is running high, and it is therefore very satisfactory to read an article by M. Ivan Majaroff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, which is a model of moderation and common sense. (This article is reproduced at the end of my letter.)

The Greek Parliament met yesterday, and it is surmised that if the Protocol relating to Greek and Bulgarian Minorities is brought forward, it will be rejected by the Parliament. But the resignation of M. Roussos, the Greek Foreign Minister, may mean that the Government has not the intention of bringing the Protocol before Parliament for ratification. It would, in fact, seem that the idea is to let it die a natural death. Naturally the non-ratification of the Protocol will arouse resentment in Bulgaria, and at the Council of the League of Nations, due to be held in Geneva during March, Bulgaria is practically certain to raise the question. Meanwhile, the League of Nations' delegates, along with the Mixed Commission for Greek-Bulgarian voluntary emigration, are leaving Sofia at the end of February for Athens, where they will instal themselves. It is to be sincerely hoped that the delegates, who naturally enjoy the full moral support of the League of Nations, may succeed in creating a better atmosphere between Greece and Bulgaria. For there is no use hiding the fact that a somewhat serious situation has arisen, and when racial passions are inflamed in the Balkans there is no saying what may happen.

The Treasure of Vultchi-Treune.

The discovery of a massive gold vase, with its component parts, by some peasants working near Vultchi-Treune, in the district of Plevna, is of considerable archæological interest. Other gold vases have been found in Bulgaria, but they have all been of much smaller dimensions. Local experts, notably M. Protitch and Professor Filoff, incline to the belief that the vase in question is of Persian workmanship, and was formerly used by

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the disciples of the Zarathustra religion. It has lain buried in Bulgaria for many hundreds of years, and it was quite by chance that the peasants found it. A spice of humour is lent to the proceedings by the fact that the peasants believed the vase to be bronze, and, therefore, handed it over to the Mayor. Their honesty will, however, be rewarded, as the law of the country provides for a certain percentage of the value of an art treasure being handed over to the finder thereof. It is calculated that the vase in question is worth, measured in gold, about £5,000. It is now on view at the National Museum in Sofia, where it has attracted much attention.

Anarchists.

There has been a recrudescence of Anarchist activity. Ten days ago a Sofia detective named Stephanoff was shot dead in the street. His assailant escaped, but it was believed that he was a notorious Anarchist. Two days ago the police received information of the whereabouts of this individual. Preparations were made on a large scale to effect his capture, and in the afternoon a big force of police and soldiers, accompanied by a machine-gun detachment, rounded up the Anarchists in a house standing in a commanding position on the outskirts of the town. A cordon was drawn round this house, and field artillery was brought up with the intention of blowing it to pieces. But the approach of darkness and the fear that damage would be done to surrounding houses induced the authorities not to use artillery. Meanwhile, it was learned that the Anarchists were two in number. It was then decided to set fire to the house, but in the interval some detectives and police forced an entry. The Anarchists had apparently established a stronghold in the attics, and for a long time they defied all the efforts of the authorities. Firing took place on both sides, but no detectives or police were hurt. One of the Anarchists was, however, killed, and late in the evening the second one was found dead. Whether he was suffocated, killed himself, or was shot is not known. About him was found a store of revolvers and bombs, and as he and his companion had long been sought for by the police, the latter seem to have registered a distinct success.

News in Brief.

To-day M. Bilciuresco, the new Roumanian Minister, presented his letters of credence to King Boris.

The British Minister, the Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, has returned from leave and resumed his duties.

The Protocol of Geneva.

The following is the translation of an article published in the *Slovo* of January 12, and written by M. Ivan Majaroff :—

If one judges by what one reads, and by what is being said in Greece, one arrives at the conclusion that our Southern neighbour has really decided not to respect the engagement which her representative at the League of Nations took in the name of the Greek Government and nation. If a country takes such a decision, one is entitled to think that the engagement is very heavy, even unsupportable, or that the country has a singular conception of the League of Nations and the importance of its decisions.

We know that the Protocol, signed at the last Assembly of the League at Geneva, regarding minorities is an inevitable consequence of Treaties already signed and that the only new feature is that two League delegates are appointed to control the execution of these Treaties. And it is that, so we hear, that is frightening our neighbours. We cannot see, however, what there is to be frightened about, if Greece is inspired by a sincere desire to carry out engagements assumed by her and respect the Treaties.

There are two Slav races, Czechoslovaks and Poles, who have accorded rights to their minorities without being obliged to by the League of Nations, and without any reciprocity. In so far as Greek and Bulgarian minorities are concerned, reciprocity is, on the contrary, assured.

Thus, what makes Greeks, notably prudent men like M. Venizelos, advise the Government not to apply the Protocol and to place it before Parliament with the recommendation not to ratify it? In certain circles it is said that the negotiations with Yugoslavia regarding the renewal of the Treaty of Alliance being imminent, the Greek Government, wishing to be "prévenant" for the Serbs, has decided to expose itself in the eyes of the League of Nations.

This theory seems absurd. First of all, it is not probable that the old Serbs would like to see the Slav element disappear entirely from Greek Macedonia. In addition, the vital interests of Yugoslavia will not be met by the platonic success of the Geneva Protocol being rejected.

As to the question of what nationality are the Slavs living in Greek Macedonia, this will not be decided by the Protocol.

But recent events have proved to Bulgaria, as well as to Greece and Serbia, that to-day the elements which serve as a base for dividing up territory are other than physical. It would thus be naive to believe that such insinuations are able to satisfy the economic needs of the population living to the north of Salonika. The Greek authorities seem to be under the influence of the thousands of refugees who are feeling their way and who come into opposition not only with the Bulgarians, but also with the local Greek population, whom they regard with hate and envy. The Opposition group, in its struggles to attain power, exaggerates the importance of the Geneva Protocol, and encourages the refugees to commit acts of violence. These latter believe that the expulsion of the Bulgarians will bring them large tracts of fertile lands on which hundreds of thousands of Asia Minor refugees will be able to instal themselves.

In addition, the Geneva Protocol may be used as a pretext for overthrowing the Government.

In other countries responsible statesmen would have preferred to resign from power instead of risking theirs and their country's reputation, but in Greece the revolutionary spirit has not yet disappeared, and parliamentary methods in vogue in more democratic countries have not yet been entirely adopted.

It is very sad for us that this situation has arisen, but we shall do our duty to the end. When the Protocol was signed, we did not fear any pacific intervention by the League; on the contrary, we desired the presence of an arbiter. There are, perhaps, in our country unreasonable people, or refugees greedy to gain land, but in general our country is against the expulsion of minorities. Although we do not pretend to be more advanced than our neighbours, we believe that if minorities are well treated, they become attached to their properties, they learn the language, and become good citizens.

Our neighbours are losing an excellent chance of inaugurating a friendly policy with us. For the Greeks living in Bulgaria and the Bulgarians living in Greece could have become the pivots for a better political and economic development. It is only necessary that the two Governments treat the minorities with more confidence. But we have not altogether lost hope that a better and brighter era in Greek-Bulgarian relations may open.

GREECE.

Athens, January 19.

Græco-Bulgarian Relations.

The persistent reports of the persecution of Greeks in Bulgaria are the subject of much un-

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friendly comment on Bulgaria in the Greek Press, and ill-feeling between the two countries is by no means subsiding. The Bulgarian Government denies these reports, and proposes the institution of an inquiry by the Græco-Bulgarian Mixed Commission in view of the establishment of the truth as regards the position of the Greek minorities in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian minorities in Greece. The Greek Government is not disposed to accept the Bulgarian proposal, inasmuch as the Mixed Commission is not qualified to carry out the task with which the Bulgarian Government proposes to entrust it. The Commission has only the right to intervene in questions regarding Greek subjects of Bulgarian origin and Bulgarian subjects of Greek origin The reported persecutions which are the constant cause of friction between the two countries concern *Hellenic subjects* established in Bulgaria.

According to information emanating from semi-official sources, the following crimes of which Greeks have been the victims have been perpetrated in Bulgaria since July last :—

August.—Bomb thrown at Bourgas in the court of the house of the brothers Bezis, Hellenic subjects.

September.—Murder of Apostolos N. Christodoulo, Hellenic subject.

October.—Bomb thrown at Bourgas against the house of a Hellenic subject named Kokkinos.

November.—Five Greeks, of whom three were Hellenic subjects, killed or wounded at Staminaka.

December.—The house of a Hellenic subject, Nicoglou by name, was bombed at Sofia.

January.—The house of Svoronos, a Hellenic subject, was bombed at Bourgas. The Greek Consul at Bourgas lives in the same house.

It is added that no arrests whatever have been made in connection with the above-mentioned crimes, which are obviously the work of *komitajis*, over whom the Sofia Government has perhaps no control. M. Roussos, the retiring Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated in the National Assembly not long ago that the terror spread by the *komitajis* is such that no Bulgarian or Greek dares to give evidence against them. The Mayor of Vodena, M. Kaloussis, who last summer reported to the Mixed Commission the names of Bulgarians who committed various crimes in his district, was brutally murdered.

The insecurity of Greeks in Bulgaria owing to the activity of the *komitajis* is doubtless one of the reasons, if not the principal reason, which has impelled the Michalakopoulos Government to ignore the Geneva Protocol. The Government fears that the recognition of any rights to the Bulgarian minorities in Macedonia would encourage the *komitajis* to commit more misdeeds. The eminent jurisconsults, including M. Politis, who are responsible for the Geneva Protocol, are obviously not familiar with affairs in Macedonia, and with the racial feuds which are the scourge of that province.

The Michalakopoulos Government found itself in an extremely difficult position. The application of the Geneva Protocol, which was signed by M. Politis during the Premiership of M. Sofoulis, with M. Roussos as Foreign Minister, would have been detrimental to the interests of the country; it would not only have further complicated affairs in Macedonia, but it would also have rendered particularly difficult the negotiations to be shortly opened with Yugoslavia for the renewal of the Græco-Serbian Treaty. The Government's action in considering the Protocol as non-existent has met with the general approval of the nation. Only M. Papanastassiou's party will make capital out of the Government's action in order to continue its policy of obstruction in the National Assembly. The question which now arises is: How did M. Politis come to sign the Protocol? Has he any personal responsibility in the matter? Be that as it may, by withdrawing from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (he has long desired to do so), M. Roussos assumes the responsibility for M. Politis' action.

The Police Force.

The police force organised by the British Mission under the able leadership of Sir Frederick Loch Halliday, which has been operating for some time at Piræus, Patras, and Corfu, has taken over the principal centres at Athens, and its jurisdiction will gradually be extended all over the capital. The Greek police has from all times left much to be desired, and its inefficiency at Athens became more and more evident as the population increased. Some ten years ago the population of Athens and the Piræus was 200,000. To-day, as far as can be ascertained, it is 700,000. It is easy to understand how difficult circulation is nowadays in the Greek capital, and particularly in the narrow streets dating back to the Bavarian Regency.

When M. Venizelos visited London towards the end of the Great War he was struck by the smart appearance and efficiency of the Metropolitan police. Always anxious to improve conditions in his own country, M. Venizelos consulted the Marquis Curzon as to the possibility of sending to Greece a special mission for the reorganisation of the police in the principal towns. The British Government raised no objection; a mission was formed, and Sir Frederick Halliday, who had so distinguished himself as organiser of police in India, was placed at its head. The mission first endeavoured to organise a police force by picking men from the gendarmerie, but this scheme fell through under the Royalist régime in 1921. The Mission's second effort, which was crowned with much success, was the organisation of a body of picked men trained at a police school at Corfu, specially instituted for that purpose. The new police has done excellent work in Piræus, Patras, and Corfu, and the extension of its activities has given general satisfaction. The police conditions in the capital had become intolerable. The highest credit reflects on Sir Frederick Halliday for what he has already achieved, and his presence at the head of the new police force suffices to inspire confidence in that body.

Campaign Against Refugees Commission.

The Royalist Press and the official organ of M. Alexandre Papanastassiou, leader of the Republican Union, which, inconsistent with reason as it may appear, have joined hands to combat the powers that be in this country to-day, are leading a systematic campaign against the Refugee Settlement Commission. Their latest grievance is a contract for the supply of wheat concluded with the Bodossaki Athanassiadi firm. The charges brought against the Refugee Commission rest on no more foundation than those levelled at Mr. Henry Morgenthau, late chairman of the Commission, in connection with orders placed in Germany for sectional habitations for the refugees, and referred to in The Near East in August last. As a matter of fact, the Bodossaki contract, which is furnishing the Royalist-Republican Opposition with a pretext to attack the Refugee Settlement Commission, is, as has been ascertained by your Correspondent, concluded on more favourable terms than any contract hitherto signed by the Commission for the supply of wheat.

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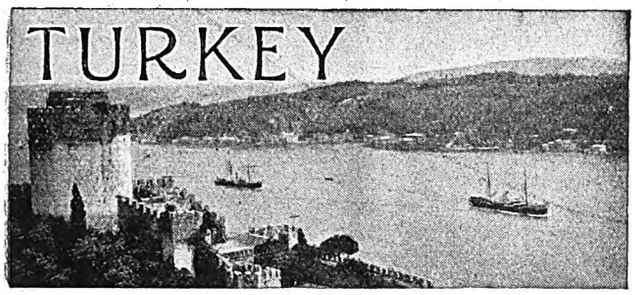

Constantinople, January 20.

Turco-Greek Differences.

No satisfactory settlement of the Turco-Greek problems now being negotiated at Athens has yet been reached. During the past week there was a certain optimism regarding the issue of the *pourparlers*, as it was believed that Angora's reply to the Greek Government was favourable. The Greek Government's decision to restore to the Mussulmans of Thrace all the seized property contributed largely to a smoothing over of the existing differences between the two countries. At the moment, however, no progress is being reported, and it is supposed that the question of the return of Constantinople Greeks is responsible for the delay in arriving at a settlement. It is evident, from the attitude of the Turkish Council, that amicable relations with all the neighbouring countries are desired, and the delay in inaugurating the reprisals against the Greeks appears to show a conciliatory spirit on the part of the Angora Government.

Of course, the proposed reprisal measures are of comparative small importance, and it is doubtful whether the benefit realisable is worth the trouble of their application. This delay is attributed by many to the reluctance of some of the Cabinet Ministers to put into force any measures likely to have detrimental influence on the possible settlement. On the other hand, however, there is a considerable number of deputies who continually press for the immediate application of reprisals, and consider the present proposed measures as far too weak. But, on the whole, and to-day more than ever, one feels that beneath the exterior of petty quarrels and long outstanding differences, there is a strong undercurrent tending to conciliation, which possibly may be forced, but, nevertheless, exists, because it is beginning to be realised that in the interests of national prosperity economic necessities must have predominance.

Demilitarised Zones.

A temporary suspension of the work of the Commission for the Delimitation of Demilitarised Zones has been given much unnecessary importance by the local Press. The difference of opinions between the Allied Delegates and the Turkish Delegate is one regarding the tracing of the line denoting the extension of the demilitarised zone. According to the Treaty of Lausanne, this line shall be traced in such a manner as to form a zone fifteen kilometres from the coast. The Turkish Delegate wishes to trace a line fifteen kilometres from and parallel to the coast. By such a process, however, the line would, in various places, come within twelve kilometres of the coast, because of certain small bays and peninsulas. For this reason the Allied Delegates objected to such procedure, and proposed that the procedure of the Boundary Commission be followed, which is that of describing a series of arcs at fifteen kilometres distance from the coast at all points and tracing the line thus; but as in this way the line would sometimes exceed the fifteen kilometres distance for the above reason of bays and peninsulas, the Turkish Delegate disagreed. The matter has been referred to and taken up by the respective diplomatic representatives, but as yet no settlement has been reported.

Restoring St. Sophia.

The proposed repairs to the supports of the dome of Saint Paul's Cathedral appears to have been responsible for the drawing of attention of Constantinople architects to the dome of Saint Sophia, which, after examination, is reported to have slight cracks in numerous places. The sum necessary to repair this dome is about £3,500. This sum is to be provided from Government funds.

Jerusalem, January 10.

A Paper in English Again.

Next week Palestine is again to have the luxury of a daily paper in English. There is an organisation called the "Jewish Telegraphic Agency" for providing Jews and newspapers the world over with news of Jewish interest. They have, naturally, an office in Jerusalem for the dispatch of news to the main centres of the agency. For more than a year past this Jerusalem office has been in the habit of producing a cyclostyled bulletin daily, consisting of four or five foolscap sheets, giving a few cables from Europe of general interest, a few items of local news, Government official *communiqués*, and extracts of Palestinian and Jewish interest taken from the Press generally. Beginning with next week this modest local effort is to blossom into a printed news sheet, entitled *The Palestine Bulletin*. This is a brave venture in view of the wreckage of the four or five former English dailies, strewed over the past five years. This attempt may possibly succeed, since it is only a single sideshow of a world-wide concern; a daily English paper in Palestine has no chance of surviving by itself without a very heavy subsidy. The circulation in the country is not likely to exceed three hundred, and few local firms can afford a regular heavy outlay for advertisements; an even more harassing difficulty is the paucity of local news of interest to the specifically English-reading community, and the even greater paucity of those able to write in English! Members of the Administration are, of course, forbidden under the Colonial Office regulations to write for publication except under certain conditions, and outside their circle those with sufficient time, ability, energy, or interest to spare to contribute to a local Press are almost negligible.

The Rutenberg Scheme at Haifa.

The Rutenberg Electrical Power Station at Haifa is progressing apace, and there seems little likelihood of much effective concerted opposition from Arab sources, as threatened to be the case in Jaffa a year ago; *El-Carmel*, the Haifa Arab paper, bemoans the fact that certain pillars of the Moslem Christian Association, members of the Haifa Municipality, are actually supporting this Jewish venture.

Haifa Jewish Communists.

From Haifa comes news of a certain activity on the part of Jewish Communists, the "Fraksiat ha-

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Poalim." They are estimated as about sixty in number. Almost weekly, they have been turning out proclamations, hectographed, in Yiddish, and secretly circulated, denouncing British and Zionist Imperialism and Capitalism, and the more moderate elements of Jewish Labour. It is only fair to point out that their strongest opponents are among the Jewish organised Labour forces, who are prompt to expel from their body all suspected of sympathy with the "Third International." In connection with the new Zionist settlements, much is heard of co-operative or "Communist" groups. These, however, have little in common with Communism as a political ideal. They are, in reality, nothing more than small co-operative guilds engaged in the experiment of testing whether the organised group consisting of from forty to two hundred members, sharing equally in the work as a whole, can support themselves easier and get better results in agriculture (and, at the same time, get a better agricultural education), than can families separately cultivating individual small-holdings. Members of such co-operative groups often, after gaining experience in such conditions, transfer themselves and family to another colony run on small-holding lines, where, instead of living a common life, with a common fund and a common kitchen (not to mention a common nursery), they have a separate cottage and allotment. Those responsible for the general agricultural policy of the Zionist Organisation have as yet no fixed opinions on whether the co-operative guild or the individual holding will produce the better economic results; though it is becoming apparent that for large-scale production the "guild" is cheaper to run, while "intensive cultivation" is best worked by the system of small-holdings; also the "guild" has advantages as an educational centre for the young Jewish would-be agriculturist, and serves as a useful preliminary stage before undertaking work on his own responsibility. Yet even in such small-holding colonies as Nahalal and Kefar Ezekiel co-operative buying and selling is, on its own merits, becoming the rule.

January 18.

The Assyrian Patriarch.

During this past week there has been staying in Jerusalem that curiously romantic and pathetic figure, the boy-Patriarch of the Assyrian Christians. He left Baghdad on January 8, and after his week's stay here, will make directly for England, where he is to stay for some time until he is of age to assume the full ecclesiastical and civil government of his people. Mar Shimun is not yet sixteen years old, but he has borne on his shoulders for five years the dignity of "Patriarch Katholikos of the East." It has been a quaint sight to see him visiting and receiving the hoary Patriarchs and dignitaries of all (always excepting the Latin) the Eastern and Western Churches; his dignity never in the least fell short of theirs, and never did he seem to run dry of the necessary official reception small-talk.

He goes to England primarily for the benefit of his education, but one hopes that his presence there will help in some degree to bring home to the British public the deplorable condition to which his people, the "Assyrian Christians," have been reduced—very largely as a result of their keen co-operation with the British forces in the later stages of the War in Mesopotamia. The student of Eastern history can never forget that it is these same Assyrians, or Nestorian Christians, who had spread throughout the length and breadth of Asia in the days of Marco Polo. They have left their mark as far as China and India; by the end of the thirteenth century the "Patriarch Katholikos of the East" ruled over twenty-five metropolitan sees, with something like two hundred bishops.

Now there is nothing left of them except a few thousand homeless refugees in the Caucasus and in the Mosul plain. Their old territory in Kurdistan seems finally to be handed back to the Turks, who are not likely to look benevolently on the Assyrians if they try to return. The climate of the plain in Iraq is killing off the fugitives rapidly, and the future of these people—through no fault of their own, seems well-nigh as hopeless as it could well be.

Hopes of Transjordan.

Reports from Transjordan begin to be encouraging; there are a few signs that financial and administrative order are being raised to a perceptible level. Since Colonel Cox took over the post of Chief British Representative the Government accounts have been assiduously nursed, and they ended the old year with a balance of £17,000. The Transjordan Administration satisfied French Syria's demands to the extent of handing over twenty-three persons suspected in connection with the August raids. Public confidence in Rikabi Pasha and the Government generally is on the increase; public security is improving, and there was a recent case in the Courts when a Christian won his case against the chief sheikh of the Beni Sakhr, who had made free with the Christian's land. The Palestine Government has lent an official to advise in the Transjordan Posts and Telegraphs service, and is to do the same soon for the Public Works Department.

The Arab Executive.

The Arab Executive has just published a joyful proclamation announcing that it has received from the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations a copy of the Minutes of the discussion on the Palestine Report. From these Minutes the Executive discovers that the Arab cause is a very rosy one, and that Arab agitation during the past five years has abundantly justified itself. The proclamation attacks the High Commissioner for the very biased character of the evidence which he is alleged to have given before the Commission, and rebukes the rival Arab parties for the material they have provided for those who would argue that Arab opinion is *not* solid against present British policy. The Arab Executive announces its intention of publishing in detail the complete Minutes of the discussion because of its importance for the Arab case. Curiously, within a few days of this proclamation comes a statement, widely published in the local Press, that "it is announced semi-officially" that after consultation with the Colonial Office the Palestine Government will not publish these same Minutes, although only a fortnight ago it announced its intention of publishing them at the same time as the Palestine Government's and the League of Nations' Reports on the Palestine Mandate.

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The Rev. C. Steer will vacate the Vicarage of Hornchurch, Essex, next month, to go to Jerusalem as curate-in-charge of St. George's Cathedral.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 29, 1925 (New Style).
January 16, 1925 (Old Style).
Rajab 4, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 4, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Roumanian Consul-General and Mme. Beza last week returned to London from Paris.

Lord Glentanar will shortly start on a cruise to the Greek Islands in his yacht Pleiosaurus.

Zekiai Bey, Turkish Financial Commissioner, arrived in London last week from Constantinople.

Sir Richard and Lady Brooke are leaving England this week for a tour in Palestine and Syria.

Sir George Lloyd, M.P., accompanied by the Honourable Lady Lloyd, left London this week for Morocco.

Sir Arthur and Lady Downes, accompanied by Sir George Manners, have returned to Cairo from Upper Egypt.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bt., M.P., and Lady Greenwood will return shortly to 2, Wetherby Gardens, from Cairo.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania arrived last Friday at 50, Grosvenor Street, on a visit to the Roumanian Minister.

The Bulgarian Minister, who is also accredited to the Netherlands, returned to London last Friday from The Hague, whither he went to present his Letter of Credence to Queen Wilhelmina.

The will of the Rev. William Babington Preston, M.A., of Conduit Street, Bedford, Senior Chaplain (retired) Bombay Ecclesiastical Establishment (net personalty, £3,420), has been proved at £4,955.

Lord and Lady Edward Gleichen will visit Cairo in the middle of March, and Lord Edward Gleichen will attend a conference there of International Geographical Societies as delegate for the Royal Geographical Society.

Lord Stanley, M.P., and Lady Stanley and the Hon. Mrs. Ferdinand Stanley spent a few days at Luxor recently before leaving for the Sudan on their shooting trip. Lord Stanley hopes to return to England for the opening of Parliament.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in February in India, between Lt.-Colonel Richard Arthur Needham, C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Medical Service, and Nell, widow of Major-General Sir William Rice Edwards, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., C.M.G.

Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee, K.C.I.E., was entertained to luncheon last Monday by the Royal Colonial Institute on his appointment as High Commissioner for India at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria. Sir Charles McLeod, Chairman of the Council, presided.

Lady Maud Warrender left London last Thursday by the P. and O. express to join the s.s. Maloja at Marseilles for Port Said en route for Jerusalem, and Sir Harry and Lady Greer left for Colombo. Sir Frederick and Lady Young also embarked at Marseilles for Colombo.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Popovitch has been appointed Yugoslav Minister to Rome.

M. Antonievitch, Yugoslav Minister at Rome, has been transferred to Brussels.

The French Government has conferred on M. Michel Salvago, President of the Hellenic Community in Alexandria, the decoration of the Legion of Honour.

Major C. P. Thomson, M.D., D.S.O., Director, Epidemics Section, Public Health Department, has been appointed President of the International Quarantine Board, in succession to Dr. Granville.

OBITUARY.

The death is reported of General Kuropatkin, formerly Russian Minister of War. He had seen service among other places, in Central Asia and in Transcaspia.

The death has occurred of Mr. W. R. H. Merk, a distinguished political officer on the Indian Frontier. It is said that he knew more about the frontier and trans-frontier conditions than any other I.C.S. officer of his time. His frontier service extended, approximately, from 1879 to 1910.

The death is announced of Sir Guilford Lindsey Molesworth, the veteran engineer. His connection with the East began in 1859. At first his principal work was in connection with railways in Ceylon. In 1871 he was appointed technical adviser to the Government of India in the construction and the working of the State railways. In addition, he saw service in Burma, Afghanistan, and East Africa.

Admiral Armand Temple Powlett, who has died at The Manor House, Rugby, in his eighty-fourth year, entered the Navy in 1853, and as a naval cadet on the Terrible served through the Crimean War, including the Bombardment of Odessa and Sebastopol. While commanding the White Swan in 1878 Admiral Powlett received the approval of the Foreign Office for his services in carrying out the provisions of the Anglo-Egyptian Slave Convention.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1925.

TURKEY'S CHOICE.

Withdrawal to Angora has not reduced the number of problems which the Turkish Government is called upon to solve. At the present moment the questions which are exercising its mind most are international relationships and the financial stringency. In regard to the former it seems to be generally accepted in responsible Turkish circles that indefinite isolation is neither good nor practical for the country; but it is easier to keep foreign Powers at a distance than to bridge the gulf afterwards. In a matter of this nature there is no room for sentimentality; it is essentially a business proposition. The four possible directions in which a bridge might be built to rescue Turkey from her isolation are towards France, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain respectively. A candid Turkish diagnosis would probably decide that France is too uncertain a quantity for the peace of mind of an associate; she lives for the day only, and can give no guarantee that the morrow will not undo the work of yesterday. Germany, the diagnosis might continue, has much to commend her: there is a practical efficiency in her business methods; she is generous in the provision of ready money, and does not insist upon it in return; but German domination during the War has left unpleasant memories, and Germany, after all, is a defeated nation. Italy, again, has her uses; but in Turkish eyes she has not yet attained as a world-force to the standard of the others, and her capacity to help financially is negligible. There remains the enigmatical Britain, with regard to whom the Turk is in two minds. In one mood he sees her as a cold, calculating vampire, with Turkey as one of her latest victims. The next moment he is conscious of an innate liking for the British character, however much individual persons and actions may have aroused his resentment. Sooner or later he is brought up with a jerk by his military instinct—probably the most steadying influence to which he is subject. Britain, he finds, has a knack of coming out on top, and the Turk appreciates success. The German Army was wonderful, but it did go under; the British Navy remains without any serious challenge. Great Britain, moreover, could, if she would, provide Turkey with all the money that the latter is likely to require. No sooner, however, has the Turk reached this stage in his reasonings than he is beset with misgivings. The last few years have witnessed a rather hectic indulgence in Anglophobia; he asks himself whether Britain can forgive Turkey for becoming a republic; he notes in a section of the British Press a contemptuous attitude towards his country, and on the part of the British Government a studied aloofness, which together suggest to his mind that friendly relations with Great Britain can be attained only at the cost to Turkey of much humiliation or the losing of face.

If Turkey should have passed through some such process of reasoning, it is not difficult to understand why she hesitates over the next move in her foreign policy. Financial considerations are no less insistent than the desirability of ending her present political isolation, and the two are inevitably linked together. At this point the dilemma becomes intensified. In financial matters perhaps more than in any other sphere the Turkish Republic has had to buy its experience. If the belief that it could pay its way without recourse to a large foreign loan was ever genuinely held it has had to be abandoned. A real fear, however, exists that financial dependence may lead sooner or later, at the hands of shrewder economists, to the undermining of Turkey's political independence, and this fear is largely responsible for the desperate attempts to stave off the day of a loan by resort to every device for raising money within the country. The selling of the Bosphorus palaces may reduce the deficit one year, but it does not bring financial equilibrium any nearer. If Turkey is to pay her way after the serious shock to her economic system caused by the expulsion of the Greeks and in the face of world-wide stagnation of trade, which in her case has become intensified by the further damage done to Constantinople by the removal of the capital to Angora, she must begin to build up slowly and on sure foundations. A loan is needed to improve her communications, both for the sake of trade and to enable the resources of Asia Minor to be exploited. But a loan is impossible until Turkey's financial credit is re-established abroad, and to secure this the Turkish Government realises that it must face certain payments which it has hitherto found it convenient to ignore, if not to repudiate. Altogether, Turkey finds herself in an unenviable position, and in making her choice of a way out may be guided solely by the not unnatural resolve to eat as little humble-pie as possible.

As far as Great Britain is concerned, there is no desire that Turkey should eat humble-pie at all. British regard for the Turks as a people has received a series of shocks during recent years, but there is the recognition of the fact that, whatever may be the policy of the moment of her rulers, Turkey remains a factor in the world's scheme of things, and Great Britain must always retain an interest in her well-being. The only possible attitude towards Angora's Anglophobia was one of aloofness, but the Anglophobia has not been taken very seriously by the British, who are equally indifferent as to whether Turkey elects to be a monarchy or a republic. Any indication that the Turkish Government is genuinely anxious to resume normal relations with Great Britain will be welcomed in this country. The test of this anxiety, however, will inevitably be the degree of Turkey's readiness to meet her obligations. It may not be possible for her to pay all her debts at once in full; but what has been lacking so far is an expression of willingness to pay at all. When the obligation is admitted, an adjustment can be made, and it is to Great Britain's interest to see that any arrangement does not bear too hardly upon Turkey at the beginning. There are many signs that the Turks are in earnest in trying to put their house in order: their initial difficulties are lack of funds and lack of technical knowledge. They appreciate the need for foreign experts, but have not the means of knowing whether they are receiving adequate value for their money. Thus a Dutch specialist is invited to reorganise the Turkish ports: but his services are not employed, because he requires a salary of three thousand pounds a year. Yet the sum is not excessive if the man is at the top of his profession, and would easily be recovered from the increased revenue to be derived from the ports; but in the present state of Angora's exchequer it may well seem to those who are sus-

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picious of foreigners an extravagant figure. For her own peace of mind it would be well if Turkey could bring herself to engage the services of a foreign Adviser-in-Chief, who would so far identify himself with Turkey's interests as to give her the benefit of Western experience in the handling of State affairs. Such a man would be better able to decide whether an expert was cheap at three thousand a year or dear at six hundred; he would know where to apply to for the best material in the reorganisation of Turkey, and the Angora Government would have the satisfaction of knowing that its outlay in this direction was certain in each case to be repaid a hundredfold without unnecessary anxiety on its part. If the Ghazi and one or more of his Ministers could tear themselves away from Angora to visit the capitals of the Western Powers, they might gain much information which would simplify the task of governing the Turkish Republic.

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.

THE SHIAHS OF IRAQ.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have read the article published in your issue of the 8th inst. dealing with the Shiahs and Iraq, and I must admit that I found it to be, on the whole, a fair statement. There are, however, some details concerning the reason for the former abstention of the Shiahs from either assisting the British Government in Iraq or entering the political arena, an abstention which is in direct contrast to their present attitude.

One of the reasons is that the Shiahs have not found any attention or support given them by the British since their entry into Iraq, and that those of the Shiahs who gained the ear of the British during and since the occupation, or whom the British themselves have regarded as leaders, are men of no social standing or influence even among their own co-religionists, and men obnoxious to the Shiahs themselves. Another reason is that the British administration appointed non-Moslem officials in the holy places of the Shiahs, Nejef, Kerbela, Kadhimain, and Samarra, and these subordinate officials, besides being non-Moslems, came into conflict with the leaders and ulema of the Shiahs. Now it is well known that the Shiite ulema are the leaders of opinion in Iraq and that the most powerful tribes and the majority of the inhabitants are Shiahs, who follow blindly the views of their mujtahids in matters of friendship and enmity, and only very rarely oppose them. For these and other reasons, therefore, the idea of opposing Great Britain took more definite shape every day.

From the time when the British entered Iraq, however, and up to the present, the course of events has revealed to the Shiahs their real friends and enemies, and has made them perceive clearly their political errors, and forced them to understand many matters of which they were totally ignorant. There is no cause for astonishment, therefore, that the Shiahs, great and small, learned and ignorant, have risen as one man to demand their political rights, and have gathered their forces to intervene in the political arena, to become reconciled with the British, and to put an end to the misunderstanding which has been caused by those Turkophils who have stirred up strife and who are in reality the enemies of both parties.

The Shiahs in Baghdad have now a political party of their own, founded on August 19, 1922, under the title of *Hizb an-Nahdah*, which has branches in the other towns of Iraq, and includes amongst its members all the leading men of the Shiahs and the chiefs of their tribes, great and small. This party is working energetically on behalf of its interests, which are the interests of Iraq as a whole, since they compose the majority of the population. I assure you that the Shiite political movement in Iraq is wholly a matter of internal politics, and aims solely at defeating the opposing parties, in a manner similar to that of the Conservative and Labour parties in England. The Shiahs to-day are by no means anti-British, especially since the ratification of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty by the Constituent Assembly last year.

I see no cause for rousing the apprehensions of the British Government at the growing power of the Shiahs in the Government of Iraq, whether now or in the future. My own opinion is that Britain will benefit greatly if she assists them to obtain complete freedom in the forthcoming election, in order that they may obtain that parliamentary majority which is their due, and take the responsibility of government upon themselves. They will then be obliged to maintain tranquillity and loyalty in the country, in accordance with the necessities of their function, and thus the internal and external policy of Iraq will develop on the right lines. It may even be that the British Government will be able—by their means—to improve its relations with Persia, since the ulema of the Shiahs wield a great influence in that country.

I do not deny that the majority of the Shiahs, if not all of them, have no experience at all of politics, on account of their non-intervention in the administration during the Turkish and British occupations, as I have said. But is it to the advantage of Britain to debar a people who form the majority in Iraq from taking part in its government, and from gradually acquiring experience in administration, on no other grounds than the apprehensions she has of them, and when, moreover, she has undertaken for the League of Nations to direct the progress of Iraq towards self-government and to bring her into the ranks of the civilised nations? —I am, etc.,

S. K. DOJAILY.

School of Oriental Studies,
Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.
January 19.

YUGOSLAV POLITICS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Having recently spent four months in the Balkans, I am able to appreciate the sound sense of the leading article in your issue for January 15, dealing with the Serbo-Croat question. My work in the Balkans, which I undertook for a number of British and American newspaper interests, brought me into personal contact with most of the men who matter in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania, and I was able to study most of the outstanding Balkan problems on the spot. This experience, together with the fact that I have been for some years an interested student of Near

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Eastern affairs, puts me in the position to add my testimony to a good deal of the things you say in the article to which I refer.

Unfortunately, a number of well-meaning but ill-informed persons, both British and Americans, go to the Balkans on self-appointed "missions." They are well received in some quarters, and given the cold shoulder in others. The result is that they have their pets and preferences amongst the Balkan peoples in accordance with the degree to which their vanity has been flattered, and they come home to lecture and write articles about matters upon which they have more prejudice than exact knowledge. A great deal of nonsense is spread about in this way—a good deal of it dangerous nonsense. As the old saying has it: "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

To come from the general to the particular. The "missionaries" of whom I am speaking have raised a hue-and-cry with regard to Stephan Raditch and the present Belgrade Government. The former is represented as a kind of Liberal martyr, the apostle of Croatia's fight for freedom and democracy against the reaction and tyranny of M. Pashitch. All this is, of course, hopelessly out of perspective. To begin with, Croatia's desire for local administrative autonomy was on the point of being satisfied last autumn, and it was only (to quote your own words) "the Communist leanings and impossible tactics" of M. Raditch which shipwrecked the whole thing and "played into the hands of M. Pashitch." I was in the country at the time of the last Ministerial crisis, and I was able to watch developments from the inside. I can affirm positively that whenever the Serbo-Croat *rapprochement* came within sight, it was M. Raditch who always wrecked its chances of accomplishment by an unexpected *volte face* at the eleventh hour. To the impartial observer it seemed that M. Raditch wanted to bite off more than he could chew, and that his personal ambitions would not be satisfied with Croatian autonomy, but required something altogether more grandiose. A careful study of M. Raditch's past career and a compilation of his written and spoken utterances lead one to believe that the good Austro-Hungarian citizen and ardent Hapsburgist of past years has not changed much for all his spectacular flirtations with Moscow. His Republicanism and his Agrarianism and his Separatism all bear very clearly the stamp of the old Germano-Austro-Magyar policy of *Drang nach Osten*. His alliance with comrades Zinovieff and Smirnoff, by which he definitely brought the Croat Peasant Republican Party alongside the Third International was, I believe, a *beau geste*, with which he thought to frighten M. Pashitch. That astute statesman was not frightened, of course, and the *détente* with Moscow only resulted in giving him just cause to take strong measures against M. Raditch and his party. The point which most of our English sentimentalists seem to miss is this: that no reasonable man in Yugoslavia objects to the more reasonable of Croatian aspirations, but no responsible Government in Belgrade could possibly comply with the demands of M. Raditch, which mean nothing more or less than the break-up of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom. Many interested neighbours would doubtless like to see such a disintegration of Yugoslavia, particularly the two extremes at Vienna and Buda-Pest, i.e., the notorious "Red" Cominteme at the former and the equally notorious "Awakening Magyars" at the latter capital. If there is any doubt about this one need only read the recent speeches of M. Raditch's friend, the Hungarian Deputy, Friedrich, the inspiration of the pan-German, Hapsburgist, and "White" reactionaries of Buda-Pest. Herr Friedrich recently associated Hungarian *revangiste* sympathy with the cause of M. Raditch, and advocated a regrouping with Hungary of all the different Slav people formerly forming a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and now belonging to the different Little Entente Powers.

The moral for our over-zealous and ill-informed "missionaries" is this: that the Serbo-Croat question is a matter of Yugoslav national politics, and that the fight between M. Pashitch and M. Raditch is essentially a fight between the ideals of the old Austria and the new Serbia. It has nothing whatever to do with democracy and reaction as we understand these terms, in their domestic political sense, at home. Perhaps one could draw the analogy with our own Irish questions, only that the Serb and the Croat are both Slavs, speaking an identical language, whereas there is a world of difference between Anglo-Saxon and Celt.

As one who has many happy memories of Yugoslavia and has witnessed all the signs there of a real "birth of a nation," I beg the courtesy of your influential columns in which to make this plea for a spirit of fair play and understanding for the difficulties of our late comrades-in-arms. Such a spirit will do more to help the Yugoslavs to put their house in order than a spirit of carping criticism or of partnership for individual politicians. Destructive politicians of the type of M. Raditch thrive too much on the latter spirit, which has been evinced all too frequently in England of late months.—I am, etc.,

CECIL F. MELVILLE.

9, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2,
January 19.

CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that some of the information contained in your issue No. 709 of December 11, 1924, as regards Cyprus, is misleading, and it would only be fair if you would allow me to correct them through your valuable columns.

1. *Crime.*—According to a statement made recently by the Acting Chief Secretary in the Legislative Council, the total number of cases of serious crime in 1921 was 4,116; this figure was reduced in 1922 by 120 cases, and in 1923 by 42 cases. The returns for 1924 were available up to the end of

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November only, but are expected to be extremely satisfactory. It is calculated that on a proportional basis the decrease during the twelve months ended on December 31, 1924, will have amounted to 806 cases, representing a decrease of over 20 per cent. on the figures for 1923.

For similar periods in 1923 and 1924 cases of other assaults and threatening with weapons had been decreased by 227, or about 30 per cent.; cases of robbery and theft by 165, or 40 per cent.; cases of animal stealing by 108, or more than 30 per cent.; and cases of malicious injury to animals and property to the value of £1 and upwards by 108, or approximately 60 per cent.

2. *Seed Corn.*—According to the official returns, there was issued in 1923 9,069 kilehs of wheat and 9,147 of barley, whereas in 1924 the issue of seed corn was 36,324 kilehs of wheat and 28,218 kilehs of barley.—I am, etc.,

M. ISFAN,
Member of the Legislative Council,
January 15. Nicosia, Cyprus.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE INDIAN STAGE.

"THE SANSKRIT DRAMA." By A. Berriedale Keith, D.CL., D.Litt. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 21s. net.)

There is a curious similarity in the evolution of dramatic representation throughout the civilised world. In ancient Hellas it originated in the recitation of heroic legends, and had a strong religious colouring. Horace tells us that Thespis, the father of Greek theatricals, used to carry his company about in a wagon; but the dramatic writers of his time were slavish imitators of Aristophanes and Menander. The English stage sprang from miracle-plays which were enacted during religious festivals; and there can be no doubt that the interior arrangement in theatres of the present day were suggested by the galleried inn-yards in which the earliest actors "strutted and fretted their brief hour on the stage." Dramatic representation was unknown in the Indo-Vedic age, although we can trace its germ in the hymns and dialogues of the sacred books. In later centuries the great epic poems were publicly recited with music and dancing; and the influence of Greek plays, which were rendered at the courts of Indian princes, began to make itself felt. But the drama was a very late development of Sanskrit poetry; and nearly a millennium rolled by ere it became a recognised branch of literature. Bhasa, whose plays were discovered twelve years ago, flourished before 350 A.D. His plots were derived from epic poetry and the popular tales, or kathas, which succeeded it. His love passages are often pathetic, but the devices he adopted in order to maintain dramatic action are primitive in the extreme. Kálidása, who lived about fifty years later, may be regarded as India's Shakespeare. His Sakuntalá has often been translated into English, and still holds the Indian stage It is couched in the purest Sanskrit, and, indeed, represents the apogee of Indian poetry. Kálidása was a master of dramatic technique; his plays breathe heroism and pathos; nor are touches of irony wanting in them. Those of King Harsa of Kanouj (fl. 418 A.D.) have been noticed in these columns; and Bhavabúti, who belonged to the eighth century of our era, was the last of India's great dramatists. Succeeding ages witnessed the supersession of Sanskrit as a living tongue by a multitude of dialects. The works of the ancient authors became "caviare to the general"; and the fanatical Mohammedans who swept over the peninsula set their faces against any form of literature which had been inspired by Hinduism. Although the Indian theatre is decadent, if not actually dead, Hindus have the dramatic instinct in a high degree; and their spasmodic efforts to give expression to it should receive encouragement from the powers that be.

All this—and much besides—is set forth in Dr. Berriedale Keith's exhaustive history of the Indian stage, a work which displays profound learning and an intimate knowledge of vanished civilisation. It should be taken to heart by all who recognise that an earnest endeavour to foster the indigenous drama should figure prominently among the functions of a progressive government.

F. H. S.

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THE CAMPAIGN IN
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1914-1918
By BRIG.-GENERAL F. J. MOBERLY,
C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., *p.s.c.*
Compiled under the direction of the Committee of Imperial Defence, this work is based on official documents supplemented by private accounts from those who took part in the operations. Volume I, published in 1923, received an enthusiastic welcome. The "Manchester Guardian" declared it to be "a fine piece of military history." Col. Repington, in the "Daily Telegraph," said, "I frankly admit that I have read every word of this book with the deepest interest and have scarcely been able to put it down. It will certainly become a classic on the subject with which it deals." The second volume which has just appeared maintains this high standard. "General Moberly has done his work well, and the Army owes him gratitude for his clear exposition," says the "Times Literary Supplement," while in the opinion of "Truth," the author "is to be congratulated on having produced exactly what an official history should be. . . It is indispensable to all students of the war."
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AN ENGLISH-TURKISH DICTIONARY.

"A CONDENSED DICTIONARY, ENGLISH-TURKISH." By Commander A. Vahid Bey, Turkish Navy. (Constantinople: Ltqs. 5½.)

Commander A. Vahid Bey's English-Turkish Dictionary has been officially adopted by the Commissariat for Public Instruction, endorsed by a Fleet Order of the Navy Dept. of the Commissariat for National Defence, and recommended by the President of the Constantinople College. After this, it would seem almost presumption for the reviewer to question his own approval of a work which fills a long-felt want on the reference shelf of every sympathiser with modern Turkey; and the presumption was punished by the only two people to whom he has so far shown Commander Vahid Bey's work by their expressed determination to order a copy immediately.

Since Sir J. W. Redhouse's lexicon, published in 1884, there has been no work of this character, and modern students of Turkish—both savants and business men—have found themselves seriously handicapped. Commander Vahid Bey has brought to his labours not only erudition and much labour, but a knowledge of European languages and acquaintanceship with those words and phrases which are so necessary, not only to the banker, but to the lady furnishing a house—from "chintz" to "Wedgwood china," from "acceptance" to "tort" and "philatelist," he has combined in his 40,000 words all the idiom and phraseology necessary to the most captious critic.

The book is admirably produced; the pronunciation of both English and Turkish is shown clearly and simply; there is a wonderful lack of misprints and errors. It is to be hoped that Commander Vahid Bey will delay the companion volume no longer than is necessary to produce an equal standard of excellence.

J. H. B.

THE STORY OF A GREAT HEART.

"RONALD BURROWS." By George Glasgow. With a Foreword by M. Venizelos. (London: Nisbet and Co. 15s. net.)

Readers of this journal will naturally associate the name of Dr. Ronald Burrows with the series of strong pro-Venizelist articles and letters of *The New Europe* and other periodicals produced by him during and soon after the Great War. Of the wisdom of his views many of us had the gravest doubts which have not been removed by later events. But none of us could fail to admire the chivalrous, whole-hearted attitude and the magnificent energy of the author. He threw himself into this controversy with all his vigour at a time when he was feeling the great strain of his high duties as Principal of King's College, London, as well as of the numerous interests which his restless and generous heart had made him responsible for. It was no wonder, but none the less lamentable, that his zeal burned out his bodily powers, and that he died, when at his best, at the age of only 52.

In spite of too great length and the inclusion of far too much irrelevant detail, Mr. Glasgow succeeds in giving us the picture of a singularly winning personality. A clean gentleman, a true Christian, a fine scholar, a genuine lover of his fellow-man, a practical philanthropist, and withal always happy and merry, and possessed of an almost incredibly energetic temperament in spite of bodily health which was never too good. We could have wished that the story of Dr. Burrows' plunge into the difficult waters of amateur diplomacy and propaganda had been told by a more impartial narrator. Mr. Glasgow appears to us to handle this matter without much sense of proportion. The truth seems to have been that, while the Principal's heart was undeniably "in the right place," it would, in this controversy at least, have been the better for far more rigorous discipline on the part of his very capable intellect.

Perhaps the very fact that on occasion he allowed his heart to take command explains part of his great charm and part of the fine personal influence exercised by him on every one who came into contact with him. Truly, he left the world better for his having lived in it. Wistfully we wonder what would have been the result to England and the Balkan countries had his wide sympathy, his knowledge and his magnetic personality only been spared to us for some years longer. C. S. W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Purpose of Education." By St. George Lane Fox Pitt. New cheap edition, revised and enlarged. (London: Cambridge University Press. 4s. net.)

"Two Vagabonds in the Balkans." By Jan and Cora Gordon. Illustrated in colour and black-and-white by the authors. (London: The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Shaman Saiva and Sufi." By R. O. Winstedt, M.A., etc. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 12s. net.)

"La Révolte Arabe." Vol. II. by Eugéne Jung. Paris: Librairie Colbert. 8 francs.)

"The Early History of Bengal." By F. J. Monahan. (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net.)

"The Religion of the Manichees." Donnellan Lectures for 1924. By F. C. Burkitt, Hon. D.D. (Cambridge: University Press. 6s. net.)

"The Life of James Elroy Flecker: From Letters and Materials Provided by His Mother." By Geraldine Hodgson, Litt.D. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Germany in Transition." Lectures on the Harris Foundation, 1924. By Herbert Kraus. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. $2. London: Cambridge University Press.)

"Survivals of Sassanian and Manichean Art in Persian Painting." By Sir Thomas W. Arnold, C.I.E., Litt.D. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Suez Canal Traffic.

An indication of the shipping revival that is taking place is to be found in the statistics of the Suez Canal traffic in 1924. Once again the total net tonnage passing through the Canal was a record, the figures being 25,109,921 tons, an increase of 2,379,759 tons on the previous year. The greatest increase was in the last quarter of the year—a fact of considerable significance from the point of view of the trade outlook. As already indicated, the Canal dues are being reduced, and no doubt the further expansion of traffic will lead in due course to a further reduction, which, in turn, will act as a stimulus to shipping enterprise.

Egyptian Cotton.

Representations have frequently been made to the Egyptian authorities by the Manchester Cotton Association with regard to the condition of Egyptian cotton. It is now announced that a committee has been appointed to investigate the complaints of the Association with regard to foreign matter and humidity in the cotton, and that it will include representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, the Interior, and Finance. Last year the Egyptian Minister in London visited Manchester, and it may be assumed that the present development is a direct sequel to this visit, which brought about the personal contact between British and Egyptian interests which is so essential for the correct appreciation of problems that may arise, whether in politics or commerce.

Yugoslavia and Great Britain.

The economic relations between Great Britain and Yugoslavia are the subject of an interesting article by M. Pilya in the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade. The writer points out that the statistics of exports and imports show that though there is a constant and considerable improvement in the trade between the two countries, the position is not satisfactory, and, as he justly remarks, since Yugoslavia is a producer of raw materials and agricultural products, and Great Britain is an industrial State, it should be to the mutual interest of the countries to develop a larger and more varied trade. During the first six months of 1924 the exports from Great Britain to Yugoslavia were valued at 374,387,745 dinars, while Yugoslavia exported to us goods to the value of 79,041,115 dinars. These figures cannot be regarded as satisfactory. There is no question that British traders ought to find a larger outlet in Yugoslavia, while it is equally certain that, as M. Pilya says, Yugoslavia should find a much better market here for her varied products, which include flour, wheat, prunes, wine, tobacco, eggs, and flax.

Reasons for Poor Trade.

Naturally, one of the principal reasons for the relatively low level of British trade with Yugoslavia is to be found in the exchange, but there is no question at all that there is a very great deal in M. Pilya's contention that British industry and commerce are not sufficiently interested in the Yugoslav market. It holds good not only with regard to Yugoslavia, but in the case of the other Balkan markets, and arises, rightly or wrongly, from the view that business with the Balkans is only too often rather hazardous. For this idea to be removed it is essential that British business men should be more fully acquainted with Yugoslavia and the other Balkan countries. More frequent visits to Yugoslavia by British business men and vice versa, M. Pilya argues, "and a more frequent personal contact between buyers and sellers, would allow British merchants the opportunity of seeing on the spot that our country has made real progress recently in many fields. Many prejudices would disappear, and an unjustifiable reserve would give way to greater mutual confidence."

The Expansion of India's Trade.

The statistics of India's trade for the year ended December 31 show very clearly how rapidly the country is working back to something approaching normal conditions. The value of the exports is roughly £255,000,000, while that of the imports is £162,000,000, there being thus a very substantial favourable balance of trade. For some time India has been buying more freely, and the indications are that this tendency should continue steadily to develop.

The Rupee Problem.

The question of the fixed rate of the rupee is coming more and more to the front in India, and it would seem that the time cannot be far distant when we shall have the rupee at 1s. 4d. instead of its present rate, which bears no relation to the realities of the situation. India is at the moment suffering from financial stringency, and it is urged that the obvious solution is the readjustment of the rupee rate, and the demand is now being made that a committee should be appointed to examine the question. Bombay is strongly in favour of this move, and it is extremely doubtful whether, in view of the pressure of commerce, action of a decided character can long be delayed.

COMMENTATOR.

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ROUMANIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

Judged by the level of the exchange, Roumania has made less progress in reconstruction than any other of the Balkan countries. This is, however, not an altogether accurate index of the situation, and once the country is in a position to profit by its great natural resources it must go rapidly ahead. A most interesting review of Roumania's mineral riches by M. Dinu appears in the current issue of *Correspondance Economique Roumaine*. After dealing in detail with oil, he proceeds to discuss coal and natural gas, and says :—

Like petroleum, coal plays a most important part in Roumania, its output exceeding 2.5 million tons in 1923, representing 27 per cent. of the total value of the mining production of Roumania, namely, 1.8 milliard lei. Starting with the youngest of coal varieties, *e.g.*, peat, which contains 45 per cent. to 63 per cent. carbon, Roumania has at its disposal in Ardeal alone above 200 million c.m., to which we must add the peat-bogs in the north of Moldova and those on the Carpathians. Peat could successfully replace older kinds of coal in domestic life; in addition, it could be used to manufacture chemical fertilisers on a large scale. Let us hope that as time goes on this product will acquire the value it really deserves.

Lignite, which contains, like brown coal, approx. 70 per cent. carbon, has a calorific power of 2,500-5,000 calories, and it occurs in layers, up to five metres thick, in the dacian formation of the marginal mountainous zone of the Old Kingdom, with the main exploitations at Sotanga-Doiceshti in county Dambovitza, in Schitul Goleshti, Poenari in the county Mushcel, Prahova in county Bacau, and also in Corcioveni in South Bessarabia.

The production of lignite in Roumania recorded for 1923, was 560,000 tons, *e.g.*, 22 per cent. of the coal output. Our effective lignite reserves amount to 2.5 million tons in the Old Kingdom and 3.5 million tons in Ardeal. The possible reserves are great in the Old Kingdom and relatively small in Ardeal. The exploitation of lignite has not reached a development which would correspond to the wealth of its deposits. It is used mainly on railways, where it is mixed with oil remains.

Brown coal, which is a lignite of a superior quality, has a calorific power of 3,000-6,000 calories, and occurs in the Miocene of Comaneshti in Bacau, where we have at our disposal an effective reserve of 225,000 tons, and a probable reserve of above 11,000,000 tons. The possible reserve is moderate. The main brown coal deposit is found in Ardeal, in the Petroshani basin, in layers up to 40 metres thick, and with a calorific power of 6,800-7,400 calories, where we have at our disposal an effective reserve exceeding 35,000,000 tons, and a probable reserve of 575,000,000 tons. The possible reserve is relatively small.

Coal, containing 70-90 per cent. carbon, is found only in Banat and in the Brashov region, recording an output of 233,000 tons in 1923, *e.g.*, only 9.2 per cent. of the coal output of the country. The effective reserve of this coal is nearly 1.5 million tons, and the reserve 20 million tons; the probable reserve is small. Anthracite, which contains 90 per cent. carbon, occurs in Gorj, where it is exploited on a very limited scale.

Roumania has at its disposal, besides petroleum and coal, another mineral energy generator of a great importance, which is natural gas. It occurs either together with petroleum, and is exploited at the same time, or in special deposits.

Nearly all our petroleum deposits contain natural gases in various proportions, dissolved under a great pressure. The presence of these gases in oil deposits is due to the violent eruptions of various oil shafts. Their composition varies, being different for every deposit. They contain in the first place methane (CH_4) (64 per cent. in volume at Moreni, 85 per cent. at Bushtenari, 90 per cent. at Bordeni, 93 per cent. at Doicheshti, etc.); next other higher hydrocarbons, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon monoxide and dioxide, all these in smaller or greater quantities. The calorific power of these gases varies very much; in general it lies between 4,000 and 7,500 calories per c.m., recording 8,600 calories at Bushtenari.

Besides natural gases from petroleum deposits, we find, on the external side of the Carpathian arc, natural gases occurring in separate deposits, and, namely, in Ariceshti-Rahtivan and Boldeshti in Prahova and in Ocnele-Mari in Valcea. Although the latter field has been left nearly unexploited, on the other fields a great amount of drilling is being done. The workings are still, however, in the exploring stage, thus it would be rather premature to talk about their value.

But the main region where natural gases occur separately in Roumania is the Transylvanian Plain, with its fields rich in gases at Sarmashel, Saroshul Unguresc, Basna, etc. By Transylvanian Plain we mean the basin of an approximate area of 20,000 square km., which is surrounded by the mountains: Crasnei, Lapushului, Rodnei, and Calimanului, in the north and north-east, Hargita in the east, Southern Carpathians in the south, and Apuseni and Bihor mountains in the west. The borderings of the plain belong geologically to the Eocene, Oligocene, and inferior Mediterranean.

The gas deposits were discovered on this plain in 1908 at Sarmashel, a place situated nearly 60 km. west of Cluj, occasionally when drilling in search of potassium salts. They occur towards the interior of the basin, soaking the sarmatic sand and sandstone and forming short anticlinal vaults, called "domes."

The natural gases from the Transylvanian Plain are nearly perfectly pure, containing not below 98-99.25 per cent. methane, while the gases occuring in separate deposits of United States of America contain only 80-93 per cent. approximately, and only exceptionally 98 per cent. The area of the fields is estimated to be about 10,000 square km., while the quantity of gas discovered exceeds 6,000,000 c.m. daily, emanating from the fifty-eight shafts drilled up to the end of 1923.

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(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Cables.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invite tenders for cables for new development in 1924/25, Cairo. February 2.

Creosoted Poles.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invite tenders for the supply of creosoted poles, stout, 40 ft. long, to E.S.R., specification No. 51C. February 12.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping plant. February 15. (D.O.T.)

Uniforms.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms required during the financial year 1925-26. February 20.

Roumania.

Porcelain Insulators.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of porcelain insulators, sleeves, and plates. February 3. (D.O.T.)

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THE BULLION MARKET IN 1924.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co.'s Review.

Developments during the past year lend a special interest to Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co.'s annual bullion review, especially in regard to the prospects of a return to an effective gold standard. They say :—

The year 1924 has been noteworthy for an improvement in world politics. The Ruhr pressure upon Germany's economic existence has been relaxed, and a decided advance in international amity has been achieved by the adoption of the Dawes Scheme on the part of the nations concerned and by the floating of a loan to Germany by its erstwhile enemies in order to assist its financial recovery. Though sufficient time has not elapsed for results to be shown, these indications of a return to normal international conditions are a hopeful augury of that trade revival for which the world stands so much in need. The effective working of the gold standard will obviously be furthered by a settlement of reparations and inter-allied debt.

When the cost of living, labour, and raw material on the Continent becomes adjusted to the depreciated exchanges of those countries, and an improvement is made in the relations between employers and employed in this country, the return of the United Kingdom to an effective use of the gold standard will be much simplified. If the means advocated in some quarters—an increased bank rate, deflation, etc.—were exerted to correct our adverse exchange *before* international trade competition is thus placed upon a fairer footing, they might prove a serious danger to our economic life, and, even then, fail in their ultimate object.

Europe Restoring Freedom to Gold.

Several European countries are now considering the restoration of their exchanges to gold parity, such as Switzerland and Holland, whilst the position of Sweden is such that there may be little difficulty in its following suit. Nor must the anxiety of the Union of South Africa also to make its gold standard effective be overlooked. Considering, therefore, the currency conditions as a whole, the year 1925 is likely to show a decided improvement, and the balance of trade may ere long be again adjusted by bullion, more perhaps by transfers of gold credits than by actual movement of gold from one country to another. This desired result would tend towards the restoration of financial and commercial confidence.

Other Continental nations have stabilised their currency by jettisoning the currency systems which they employed before the Great War. Their debts, at home and abroad, have been practically wiped out by the adoption of new currency units, which (in some cases by the aid of gold loans from countries still cleaving to their old units) they hope to maintain upon a stable footing.

The re-establishment of these new currency systems was preceded by conditions that resembled those of the ancient Chinese. The earliest form of Chinese metal money was fashioned in copper after the pattern of a sword, spade, or shirt simulacra of articles once bartered directly for each other. The frantic collapse of local currency caused the populace to practise like methods of exchange to those of thousands of years ago. Stocks, shares, or buildings possessing economic value were acquired in preference to the scraps of paper called notes, the value of which was rapidly sinking to zero, and houses became stocked with an odd collection of articles purchased almost haphazard (if easily realeable), such as household or industrial implements—in other words, the sword, spade, or shirt of ancient China.

The latter part of the year was marked by more disposition on the part of the United States of America to take part in the financial reconstruction of Europe, and gold shipments were made with that end in view. These movements, together with a broadening market for European securities in the United States, had a distinct bearing upon the exchange of the United Kingdom with that country, and brought about an approximation toward the gold parity. Such action on the part of the United States was bound to come, for the amount of gold pouring, and likely to pour, into that country was a serious embarrassment, and could only be checked by the purchase of goods or by loans to foreign countries. As the strong U.S tariff wall was not likely to be removed, some such alternative had to be adopted.

Indian Gold Purchases.

The absorption of gold by India presents a strong contrast to the present small acquisition by Europe. Heavy imports have poured persistently into that Empire from the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa, the United States of America, and elsewhere. The total of the imports for 1923 was £26,229,000. The imports during the year under review will probably exceed that amount, for during two and a half months of the summer alone purchases for India amounted to £10,350,000. The hunger of the Indian natives for gold has been accompanied, not lessened, by the spread of banking facilities in that country.

Financial circles in the Indian Empire are much exercised at the anomalous position of the Indian currency. The nominal value of the rupee still stands at one-tenth of the gold sovereign, without any apparent chance of gold sovereigns—holding legal tender for that number of rupees—being paid out of the Treasury against notes. They hold that the fixing of a more reasonable ratio between the rupee and gold would give stability to the exchange, encourage the flow of capital to India, and incidentally encourage Indian trade. The problem, however, can hardly be solved until the United Kingdom, to whom the Indian exchange is almost as important as to India itself, is again working freely on the gold standard. Meanwhile, the more gold that India takes from the world the longer is the return of the United Kingdom to an effective gold standard deferred, for imports of gold into the United States of America from the United Kingdom have a decisive effect upon the U.S. exchange, which is the index of the gold value of the currency pound. After all, the prosperity of India is so welded with that of the British Empire that it can hardly ignore the interests of the Power to which this happy condition is chiefly due.

Indian Hoarding.

It by no means follows that gold coin will freely circulate when the gold sovereign can be imported into India on a currency basis or notes can be cashed in gold. Gold, whether coined or uncoined, has always been a favourite means of hoarding. In these circumstances, it is not incumbent upon the Indian Government to render this practice easier, more particularly if Imperial interests would be injured by so doing. A nation that can absorb more than three hundred million pounds worth of gold in sixty years and leave little visible trace of its voracity, hardly needs its appetite to be stimulated. When the extent of hoarding in the precious metals that takes place in India—often over £40,000,000 a year—is considered, the very great advantage to the country of substituting fructifying assets is obvious.

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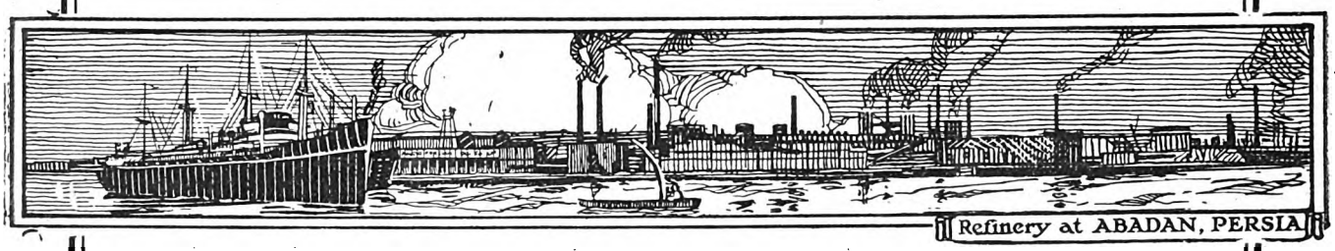

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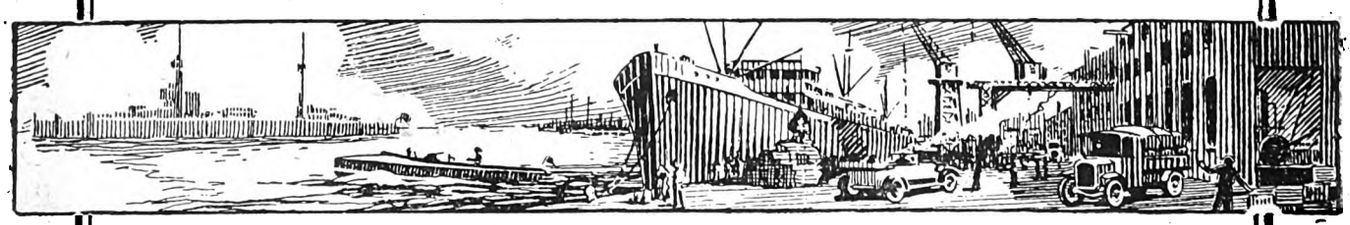

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Silver.

The range of prices during the year was slightly more than that which obtained in 1923. Throughout the major part of the year, particularly the earlier portion, forward silver was at a discount. A good deal of the steadiness of the market in the spring was attributable to a diminution in the sales of demonetised silver. On the contrary, considerable coinage orders began to be received from the Continent. As care was taken that these purchases should not compete with demands as they arose from India and China, they were usually executed upon the market when it was in their favour, and a considerable amount was purchased at lower prices than had to be paid later in the year.

The strength of the Indian demand, and the inquiry for Continental coinage, together with the political situation in China, imparted a very steady tone to the market. From the middle of May to the middle of November the level ruled between 34¼d. and 35¼d. Owing to competition between bear covering and Continental orders, there was a sharp advance on October 9 to 36 1-16d. for both deliveries, the record price of the year in each case.

The lull in Continental coinage orders was reflected in the easier tone of the market in the closing months of the year. Though occasionally sustained, or even rallied, by bear covering, the trend of prices was downward. Stocks in India and in China became rather excessive, and the retrograde movement was accelerated by fresh sales from China, where speculation in exchange had become active. Naturally the improvement in the sterling exchange with the United States made silver a cheaper proposition, and the lowest quotations were touched two days before the close of the year.

Reduced London Shipments.

Official figures show a heavy reduction in the exports of silver to India from the United Kingdom. This means that much of the silver which used to pass through London goes either direct to India from America or on a through bill via the United Kingdom. The cause of these reduced U.K. exports is that a through rate is quoted, by arrangement between two great British shipping companies, cheaper than they quote for the two separate parts of the journey, hence the journey is no longer broken in London. The London market is therefore seriously handicapped by being prevented from competing with the United States on equal terms, and from replenishing its stock except at an additional cost to that borne by the Far East. Since September 8 last, however, this disadvantage has been lessened by a reduction of the freight to India on silver from ¾ per cent. to ½ per cent. As the separate rates are ¾ per cent. (New York to London) and ½ per cent. (London to India), and the through rate is 1 per cent., the London Market is still penalised to the extent of ¼ per cent.

Though actual movements of silver in London have been diminished owing to the reasons above set out, dealings in silver for forward delivery have been quite active. Very large speculative accounts for China and India have been opened and closed, necessitating, as customary, extension from one two month period to another, and a considerable amount of business has been transacted in London as the world's silver centre for foreign clients, though the silver was not imported into the United Kingdom, but was shipped on instructions of the buyers direct to them from America and elsewhere.

The outstanding feature has been the "volte face" of the Continent from the rôle of seller to that of buyer. Demonetisation almost ceased, and purchases were made for coinage by several countries. The chief buyer was Russia. It is understood that the amount of silver acquired in London on behalf of the U.S.S.R. was about 30,000,000 ounces, in addition to which about 7,000,000 were sent from that country to be refined here. Amongst other countries were Germany, Austria, and Poland. The amount purchased in London was in the neighbourhood of sixty million ounces. Each of the countries concerned has sought to link their new currency systems with gold, and the new silver coins are intended to be subsidiary. It is remarkable that, not many months after the despatch of newly minted coins from London, London received bars of silver, which, there was every reason to believe, were composed of melted coins from more than one of the countries concerned.

The objects these Continental Governments had in view were:—(1) To regularise the currency; (2) to remove the discomfort of constantly handling notes of small nominal value, obviously an insanitary and hazardous practice; (3) to confer additional confidence in the new currency system; (4) to supply a form of currency intrinsically cheaper than gold.

Risks of failure, temporary or otherwise, had to be faced. A populace that had been suffering from a return to barter, or from painful efforts to trade with the aid of almost worthless paper money, would naturally cling to wealth in the tangible form of silver coin, and a certain amount of hoarding was bound to take place. To so great an extent has this proved to be true, that both Austria and Poland have had to pause in their policy of minting silver. Only one method can ensure eventual success in such circumstances, and that is to pour out a continual stream until saturation takes place sufficient to ensure that the coins remain in circulation. The recognised function of a mint is not to provide the means of hoarding, and, unless coin can be induced to remain in circulation, mintage will probably come to a speedy end.

In these circumstances the continuance of the policy of coining silver on the Continent will be determined chiefly by these considerations:—(1) Whether such countries possess the financial means to buy and coin silver until saturation point is reached; (2) whether the profit secured by coining silver at a less ratio to gold than its intrinsic worth warrants making and putting silver coin into circulation, though their circulating life be very short. Experience has shown that as long as coin can be obtained upon demand it circulates; but should there be any doubt upon this point, hoarding ensues. (3) Whether silver coins should be minted and *not* put into circulation, but held in reserve against notes. In this case, the note issues would appear to be better secured than it really is,

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because the nominal value of the silver coin would be returned at a larger figure than if their intrinsic worth in gold was placed in the currency reserve.

Applying these considerations to Russian and Germany—the chief buyers of the year—we consider that further purchases of a substantial character for mintage will probably have to be made in the near future, though whether the coins will be put into circulation will be a matter of individual concern to the Governments of those countries.

Indian Unrest and Trade.

The link between India and the United Kingdom and British Dominions is very real, for upon it depends an immense body of trade. The activity of that trade and the balance in favour of India is immediately felt in the demand for silver and gold. The value of Indian export trade (including re-exports) was about £205,000,000 in 1922-23. Whereas before the war 37 per cent. of the Indian exports were shared by the United Kingdom and the British Dominions in proportion of 23 per cent. and 14 per cent. respectively, the 1922-23 percentage was 39, shared in the proportion of 22 per cent. and 17 per cent.

Fifty per cent. of India's exports before the War were consigned to European countries: when these markets became largely inoperative, the export trade of India was seriously affected, and even yet has not completely recovered. Owing, however, to profit acquired from munitions, etc., internal trade conditions considerably improved, and, provided no political unrest or bad monsoon occur, there is no reason why India should not be increasingly prosperous and in a position to draw still more heavily upon the world's supplies of the precious metals. The inclination of the demand during the year has been towards gold rather than silver, and it is possible that India's demand for the white metal will not be so keen in 1925.

Prospects of Silver.

The production of silver is hardly likely to fall off to any great extent, unless there is a heavy fall in prices, and there is always a possibility that Mexico may be able to profit more substantially by her unrivalled silver deposits. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that no heavy offerings of demonetised silver are likely to come on the market.

The Eastern Hemisphere, notwithstanding perennial civil strife in China, possesses the elements of advancing prosperity, and is entering upon a period of industrial expansion. Its raw material is of vital consequence to the more highly developed civilisation of the West, and payment for this will be made largely in silver—the currency of the masses. An indifferent monsoon in India might cause a setback, perhaps acute, for Eastern speculation is a powerful force. The evils of a bad rainfall, however, have been minimised in recent years by vast irrigation schemes, improved conditions of communication by land or water, and the very careful organisation and reserves, built up specially to deal with such an emergency when it arises. The great danger used to be the difficulty of bringing help to famine-stricken areas. Aeroplanes, however, cannot fail to be of great assistance in cases of extreme isolation.

Taking into account the improved conditions of trade in the Far East, the possibility of coinage demand from the Continent, and the present comparatively low level reached by the price of silver, there appears to be some ground for a hopeful view of the future of the market during 1925.

VICKERS' DEVELOPMENTS.

The president of the International Combustion Engineering Corporation of New York and director of Vickers and International Combustion Engineering, Limited, of Africa House, Kingsway, is again visiting London in connection with big developments of the above companies and Messrs. Vickers, Limited, and associated concerns. Interviewed on his arrival, Mr. Learnard said that the progress made in American power plant design, particularly in regard to pulverised fuel firing, had been phenomenal, contracts placed in 1924 being for equipment to serve boilers having over a million square feet of heating surface. The total heating surface installed in American power stations for firing pulverised fuel firing is therefore now well over 2½ million square feet, and the rapidity of expansion is shown by the fact that it is double the figure for 1923. One of the more striking developments of the past year has been the adoption of Murray water tubes on the side walls of large combustion chambers in which pulverised fuel is burned, and Mr. Learnard states that his company has important contracts in hand for them.

One such order from the Ford Motor Co. is to apply Murray side wall tubes, air preheaters, and "Lopulco" water screens to the boilers at the River Rouge power house, which will double their capacity, so that each of the eight boilers will thus evaporate over 500,000 lbs. of steam per hour. "Lopulco" water screen tubes have fully proved their utility in preventing ashes falling as slag into the hopper, and they and the tubes on the back and side walls have proved so efficient that the sizes of combustion chambers for given evaporative capacities of boilers are substantially reduced. Mr. Learnard is interested in developing several new inventions in connection with the more economical utilisation of coal, especially low grade fuels, and a good deal will be heard about these improvements in the near future.

In Canada Messrs. Vickers, Limited, and the International Combustion Engineering Corporation have formed a new company known as Vickers and Combustion Engineering Co., Limited, at the head of which is the well-known British engineer Mr. A. J. T. Taylor. Mr. Learnard said he was very pleased with the way in which pulverised fuel had been accepted in this country, as indicated by the important contracts already secured by Vickers and International Combustion Engineering, Limited, of Africa House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	283-285
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	292-297
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.83-24.85
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{13}{16}$d-1s. 6d
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.10-95.15
Bucharest	Lei to £	25. 2½	900-905
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{13}{16}$d-1s. 6d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	880-895
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.79⅝-4.79¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	89.00-89.05
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	160¾-161¼
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116-116⅜
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	655-665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	41½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	340-342,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.00-25 10

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Poor Demand for Currants.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Oilcakes.—A dull tone has prevailed. Linseed cake is 5s. down at 260s., coconut cake is 5s. down at 220s., while cottonseed cake is the same at 157s. 6d.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at unchanged prices Tate's cubes are 37s. 3d., London granulated is 32s. 3d., while Lyle's granulated is 32s. 6d. Foreign descriptions have been firm. White Java spot has sold at 30s. 9d., while Czech granulated has been done at 31s. 3d. Futures have been steady, January being 17s. 7½d., March 17s. 6d., May 17s. 6d., and August 17s. 7½d.

Coffee.—The market has been very firm. Costa Rica is unchanged at 176s. East Indian is unaltered at 164s., Kenya is the same at 160s., while Santos remains at 122s.

Rice.—The market has remained steady, and prices are unchanged. Burma has been done at 18s. 6d. spot.

Maize.—The demand has continued to be moderate. La Plata has been offered at 47s. 6d., while 48s. 9d. has been asked for February-March.

Barley.—The tone of the market has been very firm. Californian has been done at 48s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been firm, Calcutta being at 24s. 7½d., while La Plata has been done at 22s. 3d. Rapeseed has also been firm, Toria being 20s. 9d. Cottonseed has been quiet. Bombay is 10s. 6d., Egyptian black is 12s. 7½d., while Sakellaridis is 12s. 4½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been firm and is 49s. 6d. spot and 48s. 9d. for March-April. Rape oil has been steady, with crude at 50s. and technical refined at 53s. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined common edible is 51s. Egyptian crude is 47s., while deodorised is 53s.

Currants.—Business has continued to be on a poor scale, and the tone of the market is distinctly easier. The bulk of the trade done has been over Amalias and Patras. Australian fruit has moved off fairly well.

Sultanas.—Rather more business has been done, Smyrnas and Cretans being in good request, while Greeks have also been in demand.

Figs.—The demand for this commodity has continued. Prices are relatively low, and the realisation of this fact has led to the expansion of business. Layers and Locoums have been in good request.

Plums.—The development of business is to be noted, and all grades of fruit have been in demand. Prices have advanced sharply, and it is quite likely that the near future will see a further increase in rates.

Dates.—There is nothing of interest to report as regards this commodity. Business has been on a small scale, and prices are unchanged.

Almonds.—Stocks of this commodity are now very restricted, and prices are tending to rise.

Oranges.—Larger supplies are to hand, but the quotations show little change, as the demand is keeping pace with the supply.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Haifa, December 27.—The grain market continues firm, despite the continual offerings and the arrivals from abroad. The rise in prices goes on except in the case of sesame, which remains weak.

Jaffa, December 27.—The grain market is very quiet. The export of oranges continues normally. The abundant rain that has fallen during the past week has favoured the oranges and the autumn sowings.

Cyprus, December 27.—The weather conditions continue favourable for the growing crop. There is greater activity in imports.

The Leeds Forge Company, of Leeds, has received orders for a large number of goods and hopper ballast wagons from Indian railways.

The area sown with winter wheat in Roumania is provisionally estimated at 5,677,000 acres, a reduction of 954,000 acres as compared with the area last year.

The Indian Legislative Assembly last week adjourned the discussion of Sir Basil Blackett's Finance Bill until this week on the motion of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.

The Secretary of State for India acknowledges receipt of sums amounting to £50 received anonymously at various times for the Government of India Military Department.

Lord Winterton, Under-Secretary for India, was the chief guest of the Preston and District Incorporated Chamber of Commerce at their annual dinner. He afterwards addressed members of the Chamber on "British and Indian Trade."

The Greek torpedo-boat destroyer Ierrax, which has undergone thorough overhaul and reconditioning, including new boilers and reconstructing bunkers for carrying oil fuel, by Messrs. J. Samuel White and Co., and the fitting of additional armament by Messrs. Vickers, left Cowes last Saturday for Piræus.

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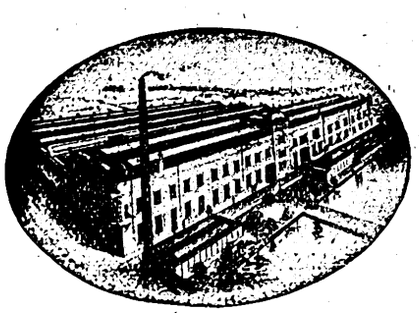
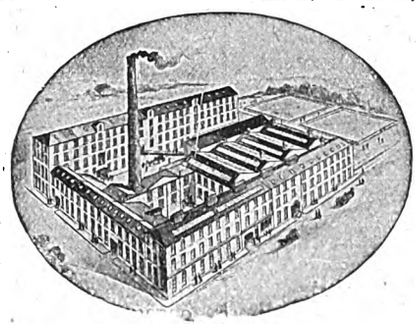
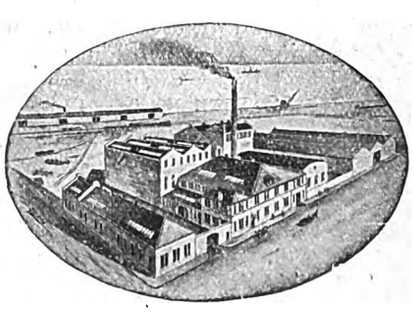

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Still Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended January 15, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been again firm, but not as active as during recent weeks. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $0.40 down for January, $0.45 down for March, $0.55 down for May, $0.70 down for July, $0.30 up for November. Ashmouni : $0.37 up for February, $0.35 up for April, $0.30 up for June. $0.25 up for October. The demand from abroad has continued to be rather poor for Sakel and moderately good for Ashmouni. Spinners show reluctance in filling their requirements at the present high levels, and have reverted to the policy of buying only when compelled to. Liverpool Egyptian futures have been distinctly weak, and prices again show $2 to $3 discount compared to Alexandria, without taking into account the shipping expenses. These discounts are rather surprising if one considers the relatively small quantity of stocks held in England at present. Reversing of straddles with Uppers and some liquidation of long Sakel positions have slightly affected the Sakel market; on the other hand, the firm tone of Uppers is mainly due to commercial buying. Sakel near positions maintain a heavy premium over distants, which confirms the strength of the statistical position, and the tendency has of late been for February Ashmouni to be also quoted at a premium over the more distant Ashmouni positions. Dealings in new crops have been but moderate, and have again mainly consisted of straddle operations.

The week's receipts amount to Crs. 152,361, against exports Crs. 98,387; the stock stands at Crs. 1,973,704.

Spot.—Minet el Bassal has been more active this week, and sales for the five business days amount to about 19,100 B/s, of which we estimate 7,900 B/s Sakel, 7,500 B/s Uppers, 3,100 B/s Zagora, 100 B/s Brown, 200 B/s Pilion, and 300 B/s White. There is not much improvement in the demand from abroad for Sakel, though a little more interest has been shown in Uppers.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the grades above fully good fair have attracted most attention. Good fair and below have only attracted a moderate inquiry. Good and above have been much sought after at good prices, especially for staple cotton. Spot premiums are unchanged for good fair and fully good fair, and rather dearer for the grades above fully good fair and for fully fair and below.

Uppers and Zagora.—All styles have been dealt in and the high grades have been in good request. Spot premiums are without much change except for good and better, which are markedly dearer.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Prices are unchanged, except for good, which is dearer.

Pilion has been in fair request, especially for the better grades, without change in prices, except good and above, which have hardened somewhat.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums have improved somewhat during the week.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Better Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 21 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A rather better inquiry has been in evidence during the past week, and in spite of the fact that spinners have been almost unanimous of late in protesting that Sakel cotton possessed no interest for the trade at present prices, it is of interest to find that Sakel has been by no means neglected. Both the Lower and Finer grades have engaged quite a fair share of attention, particularly during the last few days. Of course, this may mean nothing more than that some were merely feeling the market, but judging by the daily record of business done, there would appear to be a steady, if small business taking place in Sakel between 31.00d. and 32.00d. As we have already pointed out, one can hardly expect a large spot business at present. For one thing, manufacturers are no longer buying yarn as freely as they were doing towards the close of the year, and, for another, the weekly forwardings have continued on such a large scale that spinners must be comfortably supplied for all immediate needs. Alexandria continues to be the mainstay of prices, and it would undoubtedly be to the advantage of our trade here if a thoroughly good shake-out should occur in that market. A substantial reaction appears to be much overdue, but at the same time one cannot deny that they are in a very strong position over there.

Uppers continue to be the centre of attraction, and although no remarkable weight of business has been reported, a steady appreciation continues. With the shortage of American staple cotton (and the high prices asked for it) it seems certain that more and more attention will be drawn to this growth as the season progresses. On all sides, one hears reports of mills turning from Sakel on to Uppers or American staple cotton. Pilion has been in fair request, but spinners continue to be very conservative in their ideas of its value. This week the inquiry has scarcely ventured beyond 22.00d., and we are of the opinion that only a very moderate amount of business has been transacted at this price. Other growths have been neglected. Forwardings for the week ending 16th instant were returned at the large figure of 17,279 bales. Estimated sales 1,800 Egyptians. Quotations of Sakel have been raised 50 points for Fair, to 150 points for Extra Fine. Brown and Upper are 20 to 35 points higher. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 30.35d.

A trunk telephone service is to be opened next month between Bombay and Delhi.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended December 27 amounted to Rs.9,62,440, making the total since April 1 Rs.3,66,77,614.

Sir H. O. Bax-Ironside, K.C.M.G., is resigning the chairmanship of Benzol and By-Products owing to stress of other engagements, and will be succeeded by Sir A. H. McMahon, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I., the Egyptian Government's representative on the board of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, and a director of the Imperial Bank of Persia.

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Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Another Quiet Week.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended January 24 states :—

A very quiet state of affairs has again prevailed, and the amount of business transacted has been by no means satisfactory. The reduction in the workable inquiry is decidedly disappointing. A few months ago, when cotton was fluctuating widely, there was every appearance that, given stability and a somewhat lower level of prices, a really large business would materialise. These conditions have prevailed for several weeks past, and the market is at a loss to account for the absence of what it considered to be the certain consequences.

Yarn.

Under the circumstances above referred to the position of spinners has naturally weakened, and margins are now smaller than for some weeks past. The Committee of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation stated on Tuesday last that stocks were again beginning to accumulate, and, failing an early improvement, the question of returning to shorter hours of labour would have to be considered. Egyptian Spinnings remain very irregular.

Cloth.

Business has been on a small scale. Neither India nor China have done anything of note, and most of the inquiries which have come along have been unworkable. Perhaps the brightest spot in this section has been the Near East, for which and Egypt a number of orders have been placed. The home trade, too, has been rather more active than recently.

Raw Cotton.

Once more American cotton has been remarkably steady. Purchases in Liverpool have been only moderate. The ginning report issued yesterday afternoon gave a total of 13,308,000 bales, which was approximately what was expected, and the figures were practically without effect here. It is interesting to note, however, that the final crop estimate of the American Agricultural Bureau has already been exceeded. The welcome fall in Egyptian which took place last week was unfortunately short-lived, and prices have again advanced very considerably for both spot and futures. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 12.87 ; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 31.00.

KASSALA COTTON.

The following circular has been issued by the Kassala Cotton Company :—In their annual report dated April 25 last year the directors informed the shareholders that the Government of Eritrea were reported to be studying the possibility of using water from the River Gash for irrigation in that country. The company is now informed that negotiations have recently taken place between the Government of the Sudan and that of Eritrea, as a result of which the Government of Eritrea have undertaken to restrict irrigation from the River Gash in their country to a single project, for which a quantity of water limited to a fixed maximum may be taken. This agreement marks a stage in the clarification of the position, but the maximum fixed is substantial, and any abstraction of water must affect the possible earnings of this company. It is not possible to estimate at the moment the extent to which the company's prospects may be affected by this agreement, but the directors have every confidence that this aspect will be fairly considered by the Sudan Government.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

NEW BRITISH INDIA STEAMER.

The trials took place recently of the steamer Queda, built by Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. The vessel is of the following dimensions : Length, overall, 502 ft. ; breadth, 60 ft. 9 in. ; depth, moulded, 32 ft. 8 in. She has ample accommodation for a few passengers and for officers and crew, is fitted with wireless telegraphy, and has an electric light installation throughout. The outfit includes an ice-house for provisions, fresh water distiller, steam windlass, and steam steering gear aft, with telemotor control on bridge, cellular double bottom, deep ballast tank and fore and aft peak tanks, eighteen derricks, fitted on masts and derrick uprights, and one 25-ton derrick, nineteen steam winches exhausting into winch condenser.

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, February 7). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Valdura for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 30) ; s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Venice for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, February 14).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 31). M.s. Sycamore for Galatz and Braila (the first steamer of the season for the Danube) (Liverpool, February 7). S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 6) ; s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Beyrout, Jaffa, and Haifa (Manchester, January 31).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
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Passenger sailing dates:—

*MASSILIA, Jan. 30. *CIRCASSIA, Feb. 27.
*ELYSIA, Feb. 11. *OLYMPIA, March 13.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd.

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £4,000,000
Subscribed Capital £4,000,000
Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London:
The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
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MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

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The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:
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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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P. & O.

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Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination
DEVANHA ...	8,000 ...	—	... Jan. 30 ...	Bombay & Karachi
§KHYBER ...	9,000 ...	Jan. 30 ...	— ...	Colombo & Australia
*MANTUA ...	11,000 ...	Jan. 30 ...	Feb. 6 ...	Straits, China, Japan
CALEDONIA...	8,000 ...	Feb. 6 ...	Feb. 13 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†NYANZA ...	7,000 ...	Feb. 7 ...	— ...	Colombo & Calcutta
†KARMALA ...	9 000 ...	Feb. 13 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan
*MONGOLIA...	16,000 ...	Feb. 13 ...	Feb. 20 ...	Colombo & Australia
NARKUNDA ...	16,000 ...	Feb. 20 ...	Feb. 27 ...	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.
§Taking passengers for Algiers and Port Sudan.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

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MADURA	8,975 ...	—	... Jan. 31 ...	Madras & Calcutta
*MODASA.....	8,983 ...	—	... Feb. 13 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†MARGHA	8,258 ...	Jan. 31 ...	Feb. 14 ...	Madras & Calcutta
†NEVASA	9,071 ...	Jan. 31 ...	Feb. 14 ...	East African Ports
‡DUMANA	8,600 ...	—	... Feb. 27 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†MATIANA	8,900 ...	Feb. 14 ...	Feb. 28 ...	Madras & Calcutta
WOODARRA...	7,998 ...	—	... end Feb.	Queensland Ports

Ships marked $ will not take passengers. ‡ Calls Malta.
* Calling Algiers.
†Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.

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City of Venice	8,308	Feb. 3	Colombo and Calcutta
City of Hong Kong	9,673	Feb. 10	Bombay and Karachi
City of Cairo	7 882	Feb. 14	Colombo and Calcutta
†City of Poona	7,455	Feb. 17	Bombay and Karachi
City of Manchester	5,556	Feb. 24	Bombay and Karachi

† Calling Malta.
* Passengers embark Vittoria Dock, Birkenhead, 3 p.m.

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Trafford Hall	7,795	Jan. 29	S'pore, H'kong, S'hai Kobe, and Y'hama.

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City of Alexandria	4,712	Mar. 13	Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London, and Natal.
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FEB 25 1925

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1925

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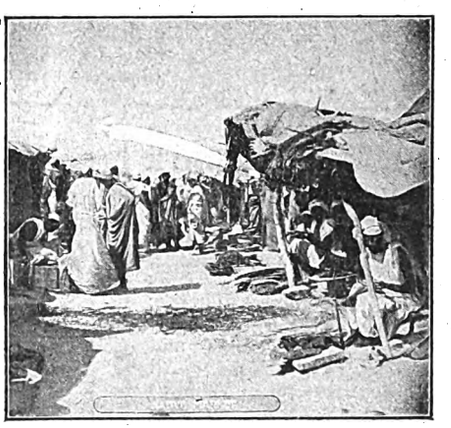

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No. 717—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Expulsion of the Patriarch.

The controversy over the status of the Œcumenical Patriarch, who had been warned before his election that he belonged to the category of exchangeable Greeks, but who claimed exemption on the ground that at Lausanne the Turks had agreed to withdraw their claim for the removal of the Patriarchate, has been abruptly cut short by the expulsion of Mgr. Constantine VI. from Constantinople. On instructions received at midnight by telegram from Angora, the Constantinople police notified the Patriarch in the early morning that he had to leave the city, and there and then conveyed him to the Passport Office in Stamboul. Two hours later Mgr. Constantine Araboglou left by train for Salonika, where, it is understood, the See may be temporarily established. Last week the status of the Patriarch had been discussed by the Exchange Commission, which recorded the decision that, whereas as a civil personality the Patriarch was exchangeable, the Commission found itself incompetent to pronounce on his case in respect of his position as a Metropolitan. Immediately after this dubious pronouncement, the Greek Government would have been well advised to come to an agreement with the Turks to have the matter submitted to the arbitration of The Hague Tribunal or of the League of Nations. Whatever steps were taken in this direction in Athens were begun without agreement with Turkey, and in Constantinople the Greek attitude adopted seems to have been that of daring the Turks to do their worst. In any case, the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* stated in a despatch announcing the verdict of the Exchange Commission: "This decision throws the next move on to the Turks, who are agitating for the Patriarch's expulsion outright. The Greek delegate intends to wait here to see whether they will carry out this *coup*." Even if Greece did think that the Turks were bluffing, she was hardly in a position to call their bluff.

The Patriarchate.

There can be no doubt that the Turks have been ill-advised in the step they have taken, and still more so in the manner of carrying it out. Their treatment of the head of their own religion was more or less their own affair; but in proceeding unceremoniously to eject from Constantinople the Head of the Greek Orthodox Church they have been betrayed into an exhibition of tactlessness. The Angora Government had a technical case against the new Patriarch; but whether it wished merely to be "nasty" to the Greeks by insisting upon the letter of the law, or whether it was resolved, by hook or by crook, to oust the Patriarchate from Turkish territory, it stood to lose nothing by carrying through its purpose with due regard to diplomatic etiquette in such matters. The incident may, in the opinion of the Turks, concern only themselves and the Greeks; but the status of the Patriarchate is too high in the world to allow other nations to affect indifference to the brusque way in which the Turks have treated the Patriarch. In spite of holding this view, we do not subscribe to the exaggerations that the expulsion of the Patriarch has provoked in Greece and in certain other quarters. The incident cannot give rise to any "crisis." Greece will very rightly protest; but it is not easy to see how an outside body can intervene unless both parties agree to arbitration.

The Greek Case.

In basing her attitude on the purely negative contention that Turkey had not pressed her claim at Lausanne for the expulsion of the Patriarchate, Greece was not in a strong enough position to defy the Angora Government. Her best chance lay in friendly negotiation, but for this, we fear, the obstacles in the way were too great. As things are, dignified restraint in Athens might yet prompt the Turks, for their own reputation, at a time when they are anxious to cultivate better relations with Western Europe, to reconsider the question, and to permit Mgr. Constantine VI. to return to Constantinople. If that does not happen, we shall still hope to find that the Greek Orthodox Church has sufficient vitality to be indifferent to the place of residence of the Œcumenical Patriarch. The severance of the old association with Constantinople will be a blow to its pride; but it survived a period of sixty years' exile 700 years ago, and should be able to manifest equal resource and fortitude to-day. Just as the influx of refugees from Turkey will undoubtedly prove a blessing in disguise to Greece in the material world, so it may be that the transference of the Patriarchate to Greek soil may ultimately prove of inestimable advantage to the Church in the spiritual sphere. To be free from political distractions and to be able to give undivided attention solely to matters of religion cannot be a serious hurt to the

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Patriarchate; the spiritual supervision of the Greeks in Constantinople can be left to an Archbishop who is not also Patriarch. It will not be overlooked, however, that the Turks disclaim any designs on the Patriarchate, but merely insist that the Patriarch, who has to be an Ottoman subject, shall not come within the category of exchangeable Greeks.

The Election in Yugoslavia.

The news from Yugoslavia in connection with the elections that are to be held next Sunday is mainly devoted to a record of casualties in the frequent collisions between the parties or between the police and the Opposition. From this information it may be inferred that party feeling is running high, and that the Radicals are straining every nerve to secure their return to power in sufficient strength to be independent of any other parliamentary group, apart from M. Pribitchevitch's Democrats. In the political passions thus raised the calm reasoning that the country so badly needs for the settlement of its difficulties will go by the board, and a Radical victory will leave the non-Serb portion of Yugoslavia embittered and unwilling to accept a verdict which, it will be alleged, has been obtained by unconstitutional means. What is not yet clear is whether the Raditch or Croatian Peasant Party is to be entirely debarred from the elections, as the Communists were at the 1923 elections, or whether the Croat electorate will proceed to elect representatives without a definite party label. In the latter case the attitude of the Croat members in the Skupshtina would presumably be the same as that of the Raditch deputies. The reason for the strenuous efforts now being put forth by all the parties is to be found in the constitution of the last Skupshtina. M. Pashitch's Radicals numbered 107 out of a total of 312 deputies, and M. Pribitchevitch's support added only fifteen to this total. On the Opposition side were 68 of the Croatian Peasant Party, 32 Democrats under M. Davidovitch, 24 Clericals under M. Koroshets, and 18 Bosnian Mussulmans under Dr. Spaho. Of the fourteen Turks five sided with the Radicals, nine with the Opposition; the balance of the seats was held by a number of small groups. This year, with a seat allotted to Zara, in Dalmatia, the total number of deputies in the Skupshtina will be 313.

The Albanian Republic.

Ahmed Bey Zogu's position in the new Albanian Republic has been regularised by his election as President for seven years, and he has lost no time in trying to reassure public opinion in Italy. His telegram to Signor Mussolini, which is a pattern of diplomatic correctness, expresses confidence that the benevolence and moral assistance of the Italian Government, which contributed so much towards the realisation of Albania's independence, will continue to aid him in establishing an administration capable of ensuring a period of political stability to Albania. In the meantime the process of clearing up has been begun, and already one prominent Albanian has been captured and "shot while attempting to escape." It is possible that the unrest of recent years has thrown up a number of people whose elimination will be an advantage to Albania; but it is to be hoped that the execution of Zia Bey Dibra is not the prelude to extreme measures against the President's former political opponents. Such methods will not make for "political stability" in the country. On the other hand, Ahmed Bey Zogu appears to have convinced some of the more undesirable characters on whose help he relied in his *coup d'état* that their continued presence near the capital is not required, and they have returned to their former profession in the mountains, to the embarrassment of the authorities and population in Southern Serbia.

The Egyptian Elections.

Speaking at Birmingham on January 30, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, addressed very earnest words to Egypt on the subject of the approaching elections. He showed how Zaghloul Pasha had persisted in a line of policy which he had been warned must ultimately end in the expulsion of the Egyptian Forces from the Sudan. Thus it was Zaghloul Pasha who had endangered Egyptian liberties so seriously; but, faced with the result of his campaign, he sought to evade responsibility by resignation, and left to others the task of solving the difficulties that he had himself created. The British Government, Mr. Chamberlain continued, was profoundly interested in the establishment and maintenance of good and friendly relations with Egypt; and he expressed the hope that the Egyptian people would weigh well at the coming elections the consequences of the decision they are called upon to give and the result of the choice they will have to make. He added:—

"I hope they will realise how important it is, not only for the future of their relations with us, who are resolved at all costs to defend the vital interests of the British Empire, but also for the maintenance and enjoyment by Egypt itself of the liberties which we had conferred on it, that their Government should follow a wise and prudent policy. . . . If the new Government will co-operate with us in a spirit of comradeship and loyalty, they will find us anxious to preserve their liberties, glad to promote their prosperity, and as proud of our connection with them as we hope they may be proud of their connection with our great Empire."

The trend of events in the country, we may hope, suggests that the wisdom of this advice is becoming gradually more and more appreciated by responsible Egyptians.

INDIA.

The Legislative Assembly.

The week's proceedings in the Legislative Assembly do not throw much light on the intentions of that body regarding the immediate future. The debate on Bengal was adjourned, while the acceptance of the steel bounties, and the demand for immediate, instead of early, action in regard to the currency, were foregone conclusions, and the most important feature of the discussions has been the indication they afford that extremist politicians are becoming increasingly anxious concerning the influence of the steel interest in politics. From the educational point of view this anxiety must be taken as a healthy reaction. The Indian belief in fostering industry by fiscal methods is not to any appreciable extent based on accurate knowledge, economic, commercial, or industrial. It is not a conclusion, but a creed, and probably very few of its adherents were aware of the fact that protection and "interests" are inseparable. If half of what we hear about the lobbies and verandahs of the Legislature is true, the "interests" have been making themselves very much at home, and are quickly teaching members a lesson which they

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failed to learn at college—the lesson that if you want a protective policy you must be prepared for its inevitable inconveniences.

The Cotton Ginning Bill.

The Assembly will very soon be face to face with another set of "interests" when it takes up the Bill for regulating ginning and pressing factories. The Bill represents a further instalment of the legislation recommended by the Cotton Committee, we forget how many years ago, but so diluted that there is some doubt whether it will do very much good. Its main object is to check the practice of mixing bad cotton with good, a practice which makes the improvement of Indian cotton very nearly hopeless. To take a recent example, vouched for by the Central Cotton Committee, a year ago cotton grown in the Punjab was meeting "middling American" on equal terms in the Liverpool market, but, as the season wore on, the deliveries became so mixed that Punjabs went out of favour, and fell nearly 2d. a pound below their competitor. The old India could on occasion deal effectively with such practices, and it is on record that when the Emperor Shahjahan made adulteration of indigo a capital offence, the trade was purified as if by magic. We do not expect the new Legislature to follow that particular precedent, but the fate of Indian cotton is now in their hands, and if they yield to the powerful interests in favour of adulteration, they may find later on that the growers' interest is even more important in the long run.

Indian Students Abroad.

Compared with their action in regard to cotton, the authorities may almost be congratulated on the rapidity of their handling the Indian students' question, for it is little more than two years since the Report of the Lytton Committee was signed. We are glad to see that the more eccentric recommendations of that Committee have been thrown overboard, and that the High Commissioner is to remain responsible, as the agent of the Indian Government, for the expenditure of Indian funds in this country, though he is to be encouraged to delegate the purely social duties to unofficial bodies, if they can be found. As to organisation in India, the only change seems to be one of nomenclature. The "provincial advisory committees," some of which have done very good work, are to be replaced by "University Students' Information Bureaux," but in practice they will be manned by very much the same people, and they may be a little more, or a little less, efficient, as circumstances may permit. On the whole, then, the decision is to make only minor alterations in the existing machinery, and the statement issued here last week lets the Committee down as easily as possible, which, in our opinion, is exactly what was wanted.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Up the Liberals!

Banners flew and trumpets blew, and brave words sped to the comfortèd, in a grand rally last week of the Liberals. Two thousand stout hearts assembled in London for the purpose of hearing Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George pledging eternal (past, present, and future) friendship, of keeping the Earl of Oxford as the leader of the party and Mr. Lloyd George as its "sessional chairman," and, incidentally, of resolving to collect a "fighting fund" of £1,000,000.

But perhaps it is unsporting so to contemn the Liberals' little efforts. It is so futile to ask what and whom they propose to fight with their million pounds (and, by the by, whoever heard of a capitalist seeking honours who was willing to pay into the funds of a party which obviously would never be in a position to dole out peerages?): for there is, simply, no answer. There is in traditional Liberalism not a vestige of a unified, reasoned policy; and even if there were the acceptance of it by Mr. Lloyd George would of itself be sufficient to make it doubted by a large section of the party. Liberals must wait, it seems, for the passing of its mighty heroes of the past; by which time there may, of course, be nothing to wait for.

Their "Ginger Group."

Not the most ignorant about the prospects of Liberalism are certain of the Liberals themselves; but these, a minority, are in positive despair whither to turn for the remedy. For a start they have made of the Radical Group, which was formed just after the last General Election in order to "put ginger" into Liberalism, a permanent organisation. That is good, but for the rest they appear to prate as vaguely and as idly as ever of such impossible generalisations as "free land, free trade, free people," and even seek to infuse Dutch courage into themselves with such heady ditties as the recently composed "Land Song," for which masterpiece the *Daily News* gave a prize of £50.

Were the Liberals even to attain the perfection of machinery for which they are so strenuously seeking (they will have to find a hundred Brunners and a hundred Monds before their exchequer allows absolutely free play to their mechanism), it is still doubtful whether mere "ginger" and prestige are adequate substitutes for a policy.

The Irish Famine.

There is no fashion more out of date than that of bespeaking sympathy for Ireland, which is experiencing, in the poorer districts of the West, a real famine, both in food and in peat. But John Bull was always impractical, and it is a curious fact that, quite apart from the practical cessation of responsibility for the economic condition of Ireland, he has been once again moved by the miserable tale of Western Irish peasants whose fires have for the first time in a hundred years perforce died out. Politics or no politics, he cannot listen aloofly to the story of the winds and floods that have washed out the potato crops and have so soaked the peat that it cannot replenish the fire that is often the peasant's sole comfort. He knows that the best of all Governments could not prevent the Thames Valley from being flooded, and is not disposed to make capital out of the fact that the less efficient Government of the Home Rulers can no better stave off the hand of Providence. Carson and de Valera are for the nonce forgotten, and the generous Englishman is again showing the romantic and illogical basis of his nature.

Lord Birkenhead's Philistinism.

I do not know to what extent one could maintain the thesis that Lord Birkenhead is not a Philistine, but from time to time he certainly makes it very difficult to those who would so stoutly defend the virtues of the late F. E. Smith. Not long ago he came, with considerable noise and ado, bump up against the outer defences of the idealists; how far he encroached upon their impregnable fortress is still a matter of opinion.

But, however inconsistent he may be in his politics, at least in his indifference to the finer qualities he is amazingly constant. Last week, with all the daring and eloquence and studied originality that become so well this erstwhile Lord Chancellor, he told the world that "though he was

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a very poor man he would rather pay £50 than sit through any classical concert." Mr. Lloyd George also—how similarly the same things appear to great minds!—once said that he was a poor man; but that may be let pass. But the rest of it! Of course, there are many people whose attitude towards music is like Lord Birkenhead's: but they do not boast about it.

However, it might be worse, and perhaps we should be grateful. For he (instead of whom we have a finely cultured mind) might have been Prime Minister. For a few dreadful weeks was there not a possibility of his becoming so?

The Shingled and Shaven.

One remembers Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, who was Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Labour Administration, for the pertness of his answers in the House—a pertness that was sometimes, I think, achieved at the expense of accuracy. It was with this recollection, confirmed and yet modified, that one read his very ingenious exposition of modern female and male fashions It was an exposition that is bringing him a good deal of temporary renown. He explains the dominance of the modern young woman by the docility, or lack of virility, of the modern young man. At times when, he says, the male loses the manly quality the female acquires it. "When virility is at its height the female seeks defence in her draperies. When virility is at a low ebb the female exposes herself to attract the reluctant male." The crinoline of the Victorian era found its counterpart in the bushy whiskers of the male; and the hairless male face of to-day is reflected in—whatever the modern young woman wears, and in such ebullitions as shingling.

A few days ago a prominent scientist, Mr. Julian Huxley, announced that the craze of shingling was merely one more example of the periodic manifestations of the female's proclivity, shown in all forms of creation, to imitate the male.

For the bewildered observer, who is neither politician nor scientist, it is a little difficult what to make of these tremendous discoveries. It is easy to engage in the delightful flippancy that the once popular quest of the "beaver" was society's instinctive effort to redress the balance and rediscover the dominant male (*Manchester Guardian*); but will the shingled (or the "bingled," as I am told those who in the very latest fashion have compromised between shingling and bobbing call themselves) allow so light a treatment of so sacred an institution?

Piccadilly and its Fountain.

To their very roots the hearts of lovers of London are being stirred by the announcement that Gilbert's Shaftesbury memorial fountain in Piccadilly Circus is to disappear, and that in a very few days. This is because of the construction of the huge Tube station at the Circus, which, it is said, will stagger the world. In eighteen months' time there will be a station with two tiers of escalators, the top one with five escalators running to a platform from which four will descend to the trains. And instead of those long, annoying walks through the tunnels there will be large spaces, in which the atmosphere will not be, as it is now, something that resembles the smell of washing clothes.

Meanwhile, the statue of Eros, whose darts have been showered on the dazzled Circus crowds since 1893, is, I hear, to be removed to the Tate, where Londoners will be able surprisedly to discover that this sprightly god, besides being ten feet high, is made of aluminium. Whether it will ever again cheer the young and old men as they stroll about the Circus by day and excitedly amble by night is uncertain; the traffic authorities are against it. And not even the bloods and the flower-women will prevail against these.

Drury Lane's Future.

Hopes were rising a few months ago that Drury Lane, in which "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is now being played to very large houses, might become an unofficial national theatre. This was the end which Mr. Basil Dean, one of the theatre's directors, had in view. Now our hopes are dissolved. Mr. Dean has resigned; and the policy of commercial opportunism is reinstated.

It is not for the outsider to take sides in this matter; at any rate, it is now my duty but to record that Shakespeare is to be followed by an American musical comedy. One supposes that large-scale productions are colossal gambles; and, of course, there is the fact that Mr. Dean is an artist. There are still people who say that successful commercial men must be artists; but you may never more believe them.

St. Paul's.

The fund that *The Times* is conducting for the restoration of St. Paul's has been well subscribed, but with the growth of the surplus has come a growth of difference in the experts' opinions. Generally speaking, public opinion is on the side of making what it calls a permanent job of it—which entails the renewing of the piers that support the great dome. Certainly if anything were to happen to the dome the tragedy to London would not be finished when it had stopped rolling down Ludgate Hill. I visited the cathedral again last week and felt again how it dominates the capital. The feeling of greatness and reverence as one gazed up through the misty ethereal light to the topmost windows was quite apart from religious considerations; one came out saying that anything rather than Wren's masterpiece might be sacrificed. After all, he is not responsible for the junk that reposes in the cathedral—that is mostly due to the Victorians. Alter Ego.

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Zekiai Bey, Commissar of the Turkish Republic for the Public Debt, who is to take part in the conference at Geneva on February 12 on the apportionment of the Ottoman Debt, left London last Friday for Geneva.

According to the *Jewish Chronicle*, the Hebrew and Arabic Currency Commissioners have decided to name the unit of Palestine currency the dinar. The shekel will be the tenth part of the dinar, viz., two shillings.

The Indian Government has given permission to the Clan Line to present gold watches to the commanders of the Minto and Clive, of the Royal Indian Marine, as well as to Captain Vibert, former Port Officer of Rangoon, for their aid in the search for the Clan Macmillan, which was wrecked in the Bay of Bengal.

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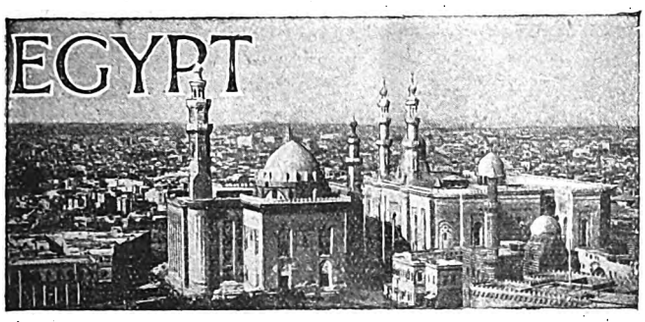
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, January 24.

The Sudan Defence Force.

The chief event of the week has been the announcement made at Khartoum by Sir Geoffrey Archer, the new Governor-General, of the creation of a Sudan Defence Force. This announcement has by no means made the stir here that, basing oneself on past experiences, one would have expected. The explanation is possibly that the electoral campaign is in full swing, and so is absorbing public attention, and that the element of surprise had been removed by the fact that the creation of this force to replace the Egyptian Army had been already mentioned in the ultimatum of November 22.

There was a slight flare-up at the time, and the announcement was a subject of discussion in the cafés for a day or so. But all has since calmed down, and the local Press is now merely calling upon the Government to take action in defence of Egypt's interests. The Cabinet will possibly make a protest. That is all that in the circumstances it can do, with no hope of satisfaction, since the step taken by the British authorities is but the logical consequence of the policy followed by its predecessor.

Naturally, the Wafd organs have not failed to seize upon this development as a further opportunity for hitting out at the present Cabinet, and reiterating their accusations that it is too friendly disposed towards Great Britain, and is willing to sacrifice the interests of the country in order to be allowed to remain in power. Those who know all the circumstances, however, pay not the slightest heed to these vapourings. They recognise that the present Cabinet cannot be held responsible for what has been done in the Sudan.

The removal of the Egyptian Army and, as already mentioned, the creation of the Sudan Defence Force were in fact already decided upon—the decision was already officially known to it—while the Wafdist Cabinet was still in office; and the present Cabinet could perfectly well retaliate by accusing the Wafd of having abandoned office in order not to have to bear the consequence of its own misdeeds, and in order to be able to make the more ignorant masses believe that the subsequent events affecting Egypt's so-called rights were entirely the fault of its successors because they were taking place during their tenure of office. When the terms of the agreement with regard to the water are announced, the present Cabinet will indeed be able to add that if, as is alleged, it is friendly disposed towards Great Britain, its friendly attitude has, at any rate, been more fruitful in safeguarding national interests than that adopted by the Wafd, since it has enabled it to stave off the danger with regard to Egypt's water supply which had arisen before the Wafdist Cabinet deserted its responsibilities.

A Distinguished Egyptian Soldier.

All who have had anything to do with Egypt during the past thirty years, and particularly members of the Anglo-Egyptian community, will have learned with deep regret of the death of Sir Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, which occurred suddenly last Sunday. He was one of the few survivors of the pre-Occupation Egyptian Army, and had had a most distinguished career. Of his ability, both as a military leader—he commanded a battalion in the Sudan campaign—and as an administrator—he had been for several years a Provincial Governor and had held the portfolios of War and Wakfs—the late Lord Kitchener and Sir Reginald Wingate, who had had opportunities of watching him closely at his work, had the highest opinion, and he enjoyed the respect and esteem not only of his fellow-countrymen, but also of all non-Egyptians who came into contact with him.

Fathy Pasha had attained a ripe old age, but showed few signs of it, and was more active and more mentally alert than many a much younger man. His death is, indeed, a serious loss to his country, for he was that *rara avis*—an Egyptian who was not afraid to speak his mind. He had great ascendancy over the officers of the Egyptian Army, both past and present, and his influence for good would have been invaluable at the present juncture. As was his due, he had an imposing funeral, representatives of every element in the population and of all the foreign communities taking part in the procession.

Fathy Pasha was a candidate at the forthcoming elections, in which he was to have as adversary another War Minister, Hassan Hassib Pasha, who held that portfolio in the Wafdist Cabinet. As a result of his death the problem has arisen of whether another candidate should be nominated in his place or whether Hassib Pasha automatically becomes returned unopposed. The law officers are understood to have expressed the opinion that as the law stands another candidate must be nominated, and to base this opinion on the fact that the electoral law lays down that a candidate

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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can only be returned unopposed if he has had no competitor on the list of nominations.

A Posthumous Dismissal.

In my letter of the 10th instant I referred to the sad death of Major S. H. Capper, of the Foreign Department of the Ministry of the Interior, which occurred on the 8th instant. To the general consternation, a morning paper of the 22nd instant contained an announcement to the effect that the Egyptian Government had dispensed with his services because he had attained the age of 65. Those of us who knew him realise that this posthumous dismissal was just the thing that would have appealed to Capper's keen sense of humour.

GREECE.

Athens, January 26.

The Bulgaro-Greek Minority Protocol.

What practically amounts to the cancelling of the Bulgaro-Greek minority protocol, and particularly the procedure followed by M. Michalakopoulos to that end have given rise to much criticism of the Government in Opposition circles. A former Minister for Foreign Affairs and to-day a pillar of the Papanastassiou party, stated in a public interview that by his attitude in the matter of the Geneva protocol M. Michalakopoulos has rendered his position untenable, and that it was his bounden duty to resign in order to save the country from the consequences of his political mistakes. It is argued that the Government should either have cancelled the protocol from the outset, or have submitted it to the National Assembly, which alone was qualified to ratify it or to reject it. The Government, on the other hand, says that in order to avoid creating in international diplomatic circles the impression that it disregarded its signature, it paved the way beforehand for the non-application of the protocol by laying before all the interested parties the reasons which impelled it to consider that instrument as non-existent.

In its explanatory communication to the League of Nations it is said in substance that there is no question of the Government's not abiding by its Treaty engagements in regard to the protection of minorities, but that it does not see its way to submitting to the National Assembly for ratification the protocol signed at Geneva by M. Politis. It is added that, to judge by public utterances, the interpretation put on the protocol in Bulgarian official circles, an interpretation echoed in the Bulgarian Press, is of a nature to convince both Greek and Serbian public opinion that the application of the minority protocol would be liable to lead to new complications in the Balkans.

The arguments set forth in the above communication are worthy of a lawyer of the standing of the present Prime Minister. The general opinion in this country is, however, that the minority protocol, without taking Bulgarian interpretations of it into account, would prove in many respects injurious to the interests of the country, and would, above all, render most difficult the negotiations about to be opened for the renewal of the Græco-Yugoslav Treaty. This is sufficient reason, it is said, to justify the non-application of the protocol.

As for the course followed by M. Michalakopoulos for rendering the protocol a dead letter, this is a matter for him to fight out with the Papanastassiou party, which has been on the warpath ever since its overthrow. The National Assembly reassembles to-day after the Christmas recess, and it is to be hoped that the Opposition will, in the interest of the country, change its tactics and allow some useful work to be achieved.

Foreigners' Purchase of Land.

A Bill is shortly to come before the National Assembly for the prohibition to foreigners to purchase land in certain frontier districts; also in certain islands of the Ægean near the Anatolian coast, and at Corfu. This measure has found critics in Italy, and a certain Rome journal sees in it a disposition of the Greek Government to injure Italian interests. The remarks of the Italian journal regarding a precautionary measure at the frontiers would have passed unobserved in this country had reference not been made "to the Italian interests at Corfu, interests based on tradition." This last phrase of the Italian paper has given rise here rather to hilarity than to annoyance, and it is generally asked: Is it to the Venetian occupation of Corfu that the Italian journal alludes, or to the empty Italian shells, of much more recent date, which are preserved at Corfu as emblems of Italian modern civilisation?

Communists in Greece.

The Communists are again making themselves very busy in Greece, but so far all their efforts to create disorders have been nipped in the bud. In certain provinces where martial law is not in force and public meetings in the open are never prohibited, the Communists are constantly endeavouring to make trouble, and the military authorities have to follow their movements very closely. According to information which reached the military authorities here the Communists were preparing a demonstration for the night before last, which was to have been followed by a memorial service for Lenin yesterday morning. Severe police and military measures were promptly adopted, and the plans of the Communists were, as usual, thwarted. With General Kondylis as Minister of the Interior, the Communists have little chance of making any headway in this country in spite of the substantial and moral support they are said to receive from the Soviet Legation. It will be remembered that General Kondylis left the Papanastassiou party because of the alleged Communist tendencies of its leader.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, January 27.

The Finance Minister Abroad.

Public opinion during the long Parliamentary vacation has naturally been directed towards the

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activities of M. Vintila Bratianu abroad. In the first place, the participation of the Roumanian Minister of Finance in the Conference in Paris has brought up again the question of reparations, and the Press has with one voice lamented the small percentage allotted to Roumania at Spa, which puts her on a level with such countries as Portugal.

The business world, the general public, who have had cause to note personally the economic crisis, and to whom the need for financial aid from abroad has been made clear, and, indeed, the whole country, have manifested the liveliest interest in the negotiations in London, where M. Vintila Bratianu has been joined by M. Oromolu, Governor of the Banca Nationala, M. Tancred Constantinescu, Minister of Industry and Commerce, M. Mrazec, an engineer, and M. Barbu Stirbey.

Liberal circles have maintained the greatest reserve on the subject of these conversations in London, and as they pretend not to expect any immediate results, they give no details whatever as to the course they are taking, but the Roumanian Press has clearly discerned the new tendency of politics in Roumania, who is turning to England as the only country capable of succouring her at the present time, and for the sake of England's collaboration in Roumanian industrial enterprises it is possible that a mutually profitable agreement may be happily arrived at. It is clear indeed that Roumania need not appeal for financial aid on the grounds of her political credit, but she could very well offer as guarantee her immense economic resources, which up till now have been insufficiently and too unprofitably exploited. Whatever be the immediate and tangible result of the present negotiations they will have served to bring anew before British capitalists and industrialists the latent resources of this new country capable of a magnificent development.

The Appeal of M. Maniu.

In the meantime a political development has taken place in Bucharest which seems destined to exercise considerable influence on Roumanian politics. M. Maniu, President of the National Party, issued an appeal on January 23 to all the heads of the Opposition parties, calling upon them to induce their groups to unite with his for the formation of one homogeneous anti-Liberal Opposition group. In this address, which seems to be due to the personal initiative of M. Maniu, the latter passes final judgment on the Liberals, and demonstrates the necessity for a united Opposition.

The manifesto is arranged under ten principal headings, excluding all selfish party motives, and advocates the formation of an overpowering Opposition which would tend to overthrow the present Government immediately.

This sudden and tolerant action on the part of the President of the National Party seems to have been inspired by his conviction of the urgent necessity for smoothing over the personal differences which have hitherto retarded the union of the Opposition. If it is sincere it will not fail to have far-reaching effects.

The Attitude of the Opposition Parties.

The National People's Party, headed by M. Argetoianu, immediately responded to the appeal of M. Maniu, and yesterday morning handed the latter their definite and official promise of union.

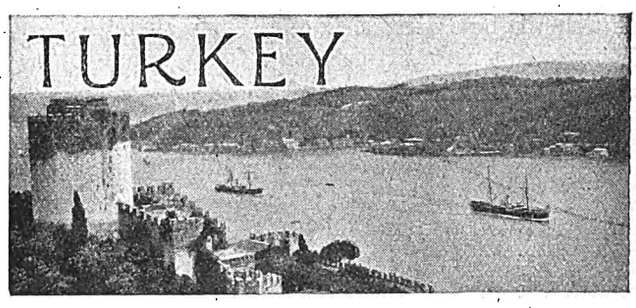
The Peasant Party still hesitates, and its administrative committee is divided as to the course to pursue. Some, distrusting M. Maniu's action, declare that it is a manœuvre intended to isolate the Peasant Party, in case of its refusal (which is probable). Fruitless discussions have taken place, and the Committee has decided to convoke next Sunday a meeting of the heads of all the departmental organisations of the party.

The People's Party, in the absence of its leader, General Averescu, have decided to reserve their decision pending the return of the latter at the end of the week. One of the leaders of the party, however, has already visited M. Maniu in order to obtain his statements on certain subjects, and so prepare the material for discussion on the return of General Averescu.

Finally, it would appear that the partisans of M. Marghiloman and their chief are in favour of the acceptance of the collaboration proposed by M. Maniu.

Under these conditions, even if a complete union of the Opposition be not achieved, one result will at least have been attained—namely, the formation of two very distinct currents of a more homogeneous nature which will admit of new developments.

By the beginning of next week the actual results of M. Maniu's manifesto will in all probability be known.



Constantinople, January 27.

The Progressist Republican Party.

The Progressist Republican Party is displaying considerable activity at the present time, and every day the papers report further recruits. To-day this newly-formed party is inaugurating its Constantinople Club, and, as if in celebration, comes the news of many newly-acquired adherents at Makrikeuy. Since Fethi Bey's coming into office the portion of the Press who favour the newly-formed party, and who, three months ago, canvassed its support, have restricted their publications to reports on the headway made by the Progressists which, though frequently exaggerated, is nevertheless considerable. This decreased canvassing is attributed largely to the similarity between the Progressists' programme and Fethi Bey's declared moderate policy. The Popular Party is also reported to be taking steps to maintain its majority, but in the Constantinople district it appears to be gradually

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losing ground. An important member of the Progressist Party is stated to have recently said that they have no desire to take up the reins of government, but wish only to become strong enough to form efficacious control in the Assembly. This view, apparently, is not accepted by the Popular Party, who continue to regard the Progressists as an active opposition and a possible and probable successful rival, and the President of the Republic, who some short time ago professed his satisfaction at the possible formation of other groups in the Assembly than that of the Popular Party, is reported to have declared this last week: "I should have liked the new party to have been a conservative one, who would have served as a regulator, and whom it would have been our duty to aid. But this one being, on the contrary, more progressist than ourselves, makes opposition obligatory."

The Patriarchate.

M. Exindaris, the Principal Greek Delegate of the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations, having returned here, it is possible that a solution to the Patriarchal question may be found. There is a plenary sitting of the Commission to-day to discuss this difficult question, and a final decision is expected to-night or to-morrow. The task of the Commission is, however, rendered exceedingly difficult owing to the hostile publications of the Press on the subject under discussion, and M. Exindaris, because of these publications, is not very optimistic regarding the possible Turco-Greek entente. The Turkish delegates of the Commission still maintain that, in the event of the decision being against them, they will be forced to retire from the Commission and resort to forcible measures in order to gain satisfactory settlement.

Angora or Constantinople?

During the past week the question of diplomatic representatives residing at Angora has again been brought on the carpet. Angora is doing all in its power to convince foreign Powers of the necessity that their representatives should be found in the capital. It is proposed to abolish in March the representative in Constantinople of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who, up to the present, has formed the *liaison* between Angora and foreign diplomatic representatives. Such a course, if adopted, will necessitate either the establishment of embassies or legations of foreign Powers at Angora, or the nomination by them of *liaison* representatives there should it be decided that Ambassadors or Ministers continue to reside in Constantinople. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is selecting possible sites for embassies, which will be all together and on the outskirts of the town. The intention of Great Britain in regard to this question is understood to be to maintain the Embassy in Constantinople and appoint for the present a *liaison* officer at Angora.

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IRAQ.

Baghdad, January 21.

The King's Tour.

King Faisal received an enthusiastic welcome on his visit to Arbil on December 18. The town was decorated with flags and bunting, and hundreds of tribesmen came in for their first sight of the King, who, besides receiving a number of notables and attending prayers at the Mosque, laid the foundation-stone of the new Civil Hospital. His Majesty went on to Kirkuk, whence his return to Baghdad was delayed several days owing to the floods on the Kingerban road.

The Frontier Commission.

Great excitement has been caused in Baghdad by the arrival of the League of Nations Frontier Commission, which is to settle the disputed boundary between Iraq and Turkey. The Commissioners, who are the guests of the High Commissioner, were given a very cordial welcome, crowds of Baghdadis waiting for hours to see their arrival at the Residency. They are accompanied by their secretaries and by Jevad Pasha (the Turkish General who was defeated by General Allenby in Palestine in 1918), with four Turkish assistant assessors. Mr. Jardine, of the Ministry of the Interior, has been selected by the Foreign Office to act as British assessor. The Commission travelled by way of Aleppo and Damascus, crossing the desert by a special convoy of the Nairn Transport Company, and reaching Baghdad on January 16. The National Party and the lawyers of Baghdad are said to be preparing a memorandum setting out Iraq's claim to the Mosul vilayet. A strong protest against the connection of Turkish members with the Commission has been made in the Baghdad paper, *Al Mufid*, which says that while Iraquis are perfectly willing to submit to the decision of the League of Nations, "founded on the noble principles of the late Mr. Wilson," they are convinced that the coming of "these Turkish intriguers, who are well-known agitators," must have very serious results. *Al Mufid* welcomes the most exhaustive inquiries of the Commission as to the real wishes of the people of Mosul, but it "cannot accept that it should be accompanied by Turkish intriguers, who will spy out our land."

The Elections.

The elections for the Iraq Parliament are once more held up, and for a somewhat surprising reason—that too many electors have appeared on the registers! The total population of Iraq is estimated at about three millions, yet, if the electoral returns are to be believed, the number of voters reaches ten millions. Many of the tribal sheikhs, wishing to secure a seat in Parliament, have exaggerated the numbers of their tribesmen. On the other hand, a few who look forward with dread to a possible day of conscription in Iraq have been careful to give a number considerably less than the real total of their tribes. These cautious ones, however, were a small minority, and the general excess was, in the words of the Prime Minister, "quite unacceptable." A committee has accordingly been appointed, under the suitable presidency of the Minister of Justice, to investigate the matter, and the elections will not be proceeded with until the correct figure has been reached.

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Turkish Public Debt.

As mentioned in my last letter, Iraq is aghast at the very large proportion of the Ottoman Public Debt which has been allotted as her share. For interest alone she is expected to find no less than 65 lakhs of rupees annually, and for a country whose annual total revenues amount to only a little more than 500 lakhs this is an insupportable drain. Mr. Parlby, Auditor-General to the Government of Iraq, accompanied by Ibrahim Effendi Kabir, Assistant Accountant-General, has left for London, his mission being to try to procure some abatement of the allotted share of debt.

Baghdad Municipality.

A new bridge across the Tigris was opened on January 1, connecting Baghdad with the suburb of Kadhimain, one of the great pilgrim centres of the Shiah world. It consists of a floating portion carried on thirty-four steel pontoons, and two adjustable approaches or ramps. The centre of the bridge when swung allows a clear opening of 118 feet for the passage of shipping. The roadway provides a width of nine feet for wheeled traffic, and two footpaths each three feet wide. The bridge has been built on a very economical plan, but the greatest saving was effected by the purchase of a great proportion of the material at less than cost price from the Disposals Commission. The total cost has thus amounted to the very moderate sum of Rs. 120,000. On the Kadhiman side of the bridge the old road to Baghdad has been widened and improved, and the P.W.D. has opened a new motor road from Baghdad West to the bridge.

The condition of New Street, Baghdad's main thoroughfare, is causing great dissatisfaction locally, but the proposal to cement it this year is held up by the consideration that it would have to be done again next year, when the new waterpipes are laid. Moreover, the authorities have not yet decided whether the proposed new tramway is to run through New Street or through minor parallel streets. The construction of a new road for the use of heavy mechanical transport and other slow traffic is under the consideration of the Council of Ministers. Meanwhile, New Street after the rains is a bog, and a bog full of congested motor, animal-drawn, and pack traffic.

Ikhwan Raids on Iraq.

On December 26 a party of the Ikhwan crossed the Iraq frontier and attacked an encampment of the Bani Huchaim and the Badur, west of Nasiriyah, killing 46. Information was wired to Air Headquarters by a British Special Service Officer who was with the Bani Huchaim at the time, having visited their camp in order to warn them that they had moved dangerously far into the desert. No movement could be made by the Royal Air Force on the following day owing to the extreme weather conditions, wind and snow making flying impossible; but on December 28 aeroplanes caught and attacked the raiders before they had reached the frontier. They scattered, abandoning some of their loot, and the next day were caught again, when 53 of their camels were killed.

On December 30 another raid occurred at Haddaniyah, some distance south-west of Samawah. One hundred and fifty tents of the Bani Huchaim were destroyed. The raiders had made good their escape before information was received at headquarters, but planes were at once sent out to search for them, and on January 7 they were attacked by air, their casualties being 49 men and a number of camels.

The High Commissioner has telegraphed to Ibn Saoud, asking him to issue orders immediately for the prevention of further raids and the return of loot, and warning him that the raiders will be severely punished.

The building of a blockhouse at Abu Ghar, fifteen miles south of Nasiriyah, is being contemplated by the Ministry of Defence, at the suggestion of the Air Officer Commanding. It is proposed to garrison this post with Iraq infantry, and to equip it with wireless, so that news of raids may be sent without delay to headquarters.

The Asfar Concession.

Dr. Najib Asfar, who has obtained from the Iraq Government a concession for the agricultural development of large areas on the Diyala and Euphrates, is now in Baghdad. He has just returned from a visit to England in connection with the flotation of the company in London which will finance the irrigation schemes. The concession is granted subject to the Iraq Government's approval of the financial status of this company. The members of the board of directors are the Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Sir Edward Manville, M.P. (chairman of the Daimler Motor Company), Sir Douglas Newton, M.P. for Cambridge Borough; Sir John Norton Griffiths, M.P. (general director of Norton Griffiths and Co., prominent public works contractors), Sir Lionel Fletcher, C.B.E., and Messrs. R. Wilson and W. H. Midwood, both prominent figures in the British cotton industry. Sir Thomas Ward is consulting engineer to the company.

General.

Iraq is experiencing a winter of most unusual severity. On Boxing Day there was a slight fall of snow, the first since 1911, followed by a hard frost, which held for several days, and was accompanied by a biting North wind. The population of the capital, unused to eight degrees of frost, and very insufficiently clad for resisting it, has suffered considerable hardship. Those unfortunate persons who were crossing the desert in the Nairn Transport Company's cars relate that during a stop of twenty minutes the water froze in the radiators. The cultivators welcome the frost because of its beneficial action on the soil, but sheep have suffered very heavily: in some areas, where the flocks were weak because of the scarcity of grazing this year, as many as 50 per cent. were lost.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE EAST AND THE WEST.

"THE OCCIDENT AND THE ORIENT." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (The University of Chicago Press. 2.00 dol.)

It was a most happy choice which the authorities of Chicago University made when they invited Sir Valentine Chirol to inaugurate last year the series of Harris Foundation Lectures, which are designed to promote "a better understanding on the part of American citizens of the other peoples of the world," because for the exposition of so important a subject as the relations of America towards the East, a lecturer with more sympathy, learning, and impartiality than are possessed by Sir Valentine could scarcely be found. The giving of these Harris Foundation lectures and their subsequent publication in book form will, indeed, if the level of the first series be maintained, be of benefit to students far outside the shores of America.

This book is called "The Occident and the Orient" for local American purposes; here it would be normally entitled "The East and the West." For the author, in his six lectures, traces the history of the reaction of the Moslem world upon Western civilisation, concentrating mainly upon Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India in their respective, or collective, relationships towards the West. One cannot too much praise the lucidity and skill with which through six chapters, the titles of which are "Their Ancient Battleground," "The Passing of the Ottoman Empire," "The Peculiar Case of Egypt," "The Great British Experiment in India," "Protectorates and Mandates," and "The New Factor of Bolshevism and Some General Conclusions," Sir Valentine threads and adorns his tale. Accepted fact is most judiciously woven into, illustrated by, or frankly separated from, personal opinion; and, to speak frankly, there are few of his judgments with which we do not agree.

There is a peculiar aptness in which, in his first chapter, he shows how the Turks, by closing the old trade routes to the East, directly forced men to discover America. That which was discovered because of Islam must naturally and increasingly be interested in the development of Islam. It was still, incidentally, the question of the trade routes to the East that led England, in the mid-nineteenth century, to act in a way for which Sir Valentine, in one of the most interesting passages of his book, shows regret. When, in 1844 and in 1853, Tsar Nicholas made overtures to Britain for the final partitioning of the Ottoman Empire—a partitioning that would for all time have secured to this country her sea route to India and her overland route across Egypt—Britain so strongly suspected Russia of designs upon India that she rejected them. "It was the parting of the ways," says Sir Valentine, "and England took what many Englishmen, including myself, have long since held to be the wrong turning." However, of the potentialities of Republican Turkey the author has not a high opinion. "Owing to her geographical position and to the fighting qualities of her people, the new Turkey can never be a wholly negligible factor in the Near East, but she can hardly aspire to a much higher position than that of a third-rate Power barely equal in general resources to any of the Balkan states over which she used to rule."

On the problem of Egypt, it is difficult to summarise Sir Valentine's estimate, for judgment is to a great extent reserved. Notwithstanding, his chapter on this subject is one of the best in the book.

As for India, the essential thing is to go forward on the path upon which Britain set out five or six years ago, for, whatever be the disappointments so far encountered, upon the success of this great experiment more than upon anything else the peaceful readjustment of the East with the West depends.

With the chapter upon Protectorates and Mandates we cannot imagine that even the most sceptical or querulous American will find cause to quarrel. Sir Valentine has many good words for the French experiment in Morocco, but he admits that in that country the difficulties that have so beset places like Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, have not been encountered. He does not disguise the fact that very incomplete success has been attained in these three other countries; he does not, for instance, believe that Zionism has yet shown whether it has sufficient vitality to make good, or that in the autonomous and federated provinces of Syria there is not much popular discontent.

In conclusion, Sir Valentine deals with the racial issue, which, he says, is now raised all over the world. With a fine show of practical and informed sympathy he shows that he does not believe a solution of the issue impossible. He says: "I will say this, that the more firmly we ourselves believe in the superiority of a civilisation which, so far, it has been the privilege of the white man to build up in his occidental homelands, the more are we bound by its principles and the principles of the common Christianity which are its one sure foundation to do all in our power to temper the bitterness of a racial discord which, if it spreads and deepens, may threaten the future of the whole human race."

THE NEW "SMITH'S INDIA."

"THE EARLY HISTORY OF INDIA." By V. A. Smith. Fourth Edition, revised by S. M. Edwardes. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 16s. net.)

We can do little more than record the appearance of this revised edition of the late Dr. Vincent Smith's classic work. The editor has had a hard task, for in these days there is a small but steady stream of new facts, and something like a flood of ingenious conjectures, scattered through a large mass of periodicals, all to be taken into account and weighed in the scales of dispassionate criticism. We confess ourselves unable to give an authoritative verdict on his work; there are not many men in the world competent to do so, and, as things go, if they were empanelled on a jury, they would probably disagree. All we can say is that we have detected no serious omissions, and that the attitude taken towards recent work appears to us to be reasonable. It is suggestive that the word "Sumerian" does not appear in the index; the next edition will have to take into account the new chapter which has been opened by the extraordinary discoveries in the Indus valley.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 5, 1925 (New Style).
January 23, 1925 (Old Style).
Rajab 11, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 11, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Fadenhecht, formerly Bulgarian Minister of Justice, left London last Friday for Sofia.

Mr. St. John Philby is due shortly in England. He has been travelling by long sea route from Aden.

Mr. F. Hedges Butler left England last week by the P. and O. steamship Khyber for Biskra and the Sahara Desert.

Sir Joseph Nunan, K.C., LL.D., who recently arrived at the Authors' Club from India and the West Indies, will for the present reside in London.

The Persian Minister in London was confined to his room last week with an attack of influenza, and has been compelled to cancel all his engagements.

Major Sir Richard Leighton left London last Thursday to join the Devanha at Marseilles for Port Said. Major-General M. R. W. Nightingale is sailing in the same vessel for Bombay.

Mr. and Lady Winifred Pennoyer left St. Donat's Castle, Glamorgan, last week for London. Mr. Pennoyer is leaving England shortly with the Marquess of Graham on a business trip to Turkey and Asia Minor.

Sir Edward M. Cook, formerly Secretary to the Government of India in the Finance Department, left England by the s.s. Khyber last Friday to take up his duties as the newly appointed Financial Adviser to the Government of Siam.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape, who have been laid up at Glenapp for the last few weeks with influenza, are now well again. They returned to London last Sunday, and leave to-day to join the P. and O. steamer Mantua at Marseilles for a run to Egypt.

M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister, left London last Sunday for Greece, where he will stay for a few weeks. M. Caclamanos is proceeding to Athens on the invitation of the Government to discuss certain questions with them. During the absence of the Minister, M. George V. Mélas will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

At a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on Friday afternoon a paper by Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S., on "Population Problems from the Indian Census" will be read by Mr. H. R. Crosthwaite, C.I.E., C.B.E. The chair will be taken at 4.30 o'clock by Sir Edward A. Gait, Member of the Council of India.

The Crown Prince of Roumania, who came to England a fortnight ago with the Crown Princess and her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, left London on January 28 for Bucharest. The Crown Princess and Princess Irene and the Roumanian Minister were among those at Victoria Station to take leave of his Royal Highness. The Crown Princess is remaining in London until about the end of this month.

The wedding of M. Ivan Stancioff, only son of M. Dimitri Stancioff and of Madame Stancioff (née Comtesse de Grenaud), with Miss Marion Mitchell, only daughter of the late Mr. James Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell, of 46, Mount Street, Mayfair, will take place on February 17 at the Brompton Oratory.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

According to *The Times* Cairo correspondent, Ismail Bey Sherin is to be appointed Sub-Governor of Cairo.

Ahmed Zogu, Prime Minister of Albania, has been elected by the Constituent Assembly to be President of the Republic.

Rabbi Haïm Nahoun Effendi, former Chief Rabbi of Turkey, has been elected Chief Rabbi of Cairo, in succession to Rabbi Raphael Bension, who retired three years ago.

M. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, formerly First Secretary to the Egyptian Legation in Paris and Chargé d'Affaires of the Egyptian Legation in Brussels, who has been delegated by his Government since December 20, 1924, to act as Chargé d'Affaires of the Egyptian Legation in London, is definitely appointed, from the beginning of January, 1925, Counsellor of the Legation, in the place of Mohamed Fehmy Hussein Bey, who has been transferred to the post of Assistant Royal Counsellor in Cairo.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to record the death on January 16 of Mr. Frederick Charles Marshall, eldest son of Mr. G. B. Marshall, British Vice-Consul at Sulina. At the time of his death Mr. F. C. Marshall, who was twenty-two years of age, was Acting British Vice-Consul.

The death is announced of Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, who made his name in many countries. He was, for instance, present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, he served with the Egyptian Army from 1883-1893, and was in Cairo again from 1897-1899. In 1899 he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Malta.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1925.

POLITICS IN ROUMANIA.

The domestic life of political parties in the Balkans does not as a rule hold any special interest for the outside world; but the recent stirring of the waters in Roumanian politics may not be without significance in regard to future developments in that country. M. Bratianu's Government has lately completed its third year in office—a considerable period for tenure of political power these days in a Balkan State. A new parliamentary session has just begun, and it is proposed to carry reconstruction several stages farther in accordance with the Liberal programme, as embodied in the Constitution of 1923. One of the measures for which provision was made in that Constitution was reform of the electoral law. As a new law would almost inevitably require to be put to the test at once, it is not surprising that the Bratianu Ministry has preferred to carry through first other items in its programme, and to postpone the making of an appeal to the country necessary. That it has now decided to carry into effect the clause in the Constitution providing for electoral reform may be taken as an indication that the Liberal leaders consider that further retention of office is not likely to bring any additional strength to their position, even if it should not, as a result of coalition among the Opposition parties, begin to undermine that undoubtedly strong position. In spite of the confident assertions of the Opposition that the Liberal Government has been on the eve of dissolution every day during the last two years, not only has it remained unshaken in office, but also at no time has there been the least sign of any other party being ready to assume the reins of government. With its mind apparently made up as to the policy that it intended to adopt, M. Bratianu's Ministry has worked steadily through its programme and it is able to make out a good case for its stewardship, within the limits of post-War conditions and the disadvantages under which Roumania has laboured. There have been, however, many points on which political opponents could seize, with the result that the Government, although never allowing itself to be turned from its line of policy, has not been able to count on any general popularity, and now for the first time it is faced with certain ominous mutterings within its own hitherto compact ranks. A Young Liberal movement appears to have realised that in many ways, without affecting the policy of the party, Liberal methods could be improved, and more consideration could be paid to actual conditions in the details of the system of taxation, and the party dissociated from responsibility in connection with those of its members who have known how to turn the Liberal tenure of office to their own monetary advantage.

The Opposition parties are five in number—the People's Party, under General Averescu, who held office in 1921, to be succeeded by M. Take Jonescu's interim Government before the Liberals came into power in January, 1922; the Popular National Party, under M. Jorga, whose following of National Democrats has been strengthened by secessionists under M. Argetoianu from General Averescu's group, and the two are now merged under the new title; the Transylvanian Nationalists, or Nationalist Roumanian Party, with Dr. Maniu at their head and M. Vaida Voivod his second-in-command; the Tsaranists or Peasants Party, under Dr. Lupu; and the Progressists, led by M. Marghiloman, generally regarded as one of the ablest of Roumania's politicians, but with his influence and following still impaired by his pro-German leanings of the War period. After many efforts, a working agreement has now been reached between the Popular National or National Democratic Party of M. Jorga and the Nationalists of Dr. Maniu, and an attempt is to be made to bring in the Progressists as well into the understanding. The practical success of an Opposition *bloc* would seem to turn on the adhesion of the People's Party; but at this particular moment General Averescu has not only refused his support to M. Jorga and M. Maniu, but it is stated that he has decided to abandon his boycott of the Chamber and to take part again in its deliberations with a view to co-operating with the Government in regard to administrative and electoral reform. A simultaneous split among the Tsaranists, from whom a group has seceded on the ground that the Communist anti-monarchical tendencies usually associated with the leadership of the party do not represent either the views or the interests of the peasants, should bring at least the seceders as a unit into the Opposition *bloc*, but will not make up for the aloofness of the People's Party.

As General Averescu has been regarded as M. Bratianu's most probable successor, his reluctance to carry other Opposition leaders and their parties on the shoulders of the People's Party is more comprehensible than any measures calculated to prolong the life of the Liberal Government. It remains to be seen, therefore, whether his participation in the present session has behind it some understanding with the Liberals, or is prompted by personal disappointment arising from the successful fusion of the Democrats and Transylvanians after his own abortive attempts to bring the Progressists into his own party. In spite of the difficulties of a Coalition Government, there can be little doubt that the co-operation of a number of parties in the formation of a Ministry would be a good thing for Roumania at the present stage in her history. As far as their parliamentary majority is concerned, the Liberals have no need for the step; but they will have realised, or their leaders will have, that the prospect of a foreign loan will be considerably improved when it can be shown not only that financial consolidation has been achieved, but that the general financial policy has now met with the approval of the country as a whole, and represents a more or less permanent factor in Roumanian life. To win this approval, it may be necessary to meet the non-Liberal parties on certain other points. Not one of them, as far as is known, has any sufficiently far-reaching financial scheme to put in the place of the Liberal policy; but the extreme bitterness of party feeling and the tendency to scrap everything associated with a previous Government are apt to make foreign capital shy of entrusting itself to a country where a Government, whatever its ability, is demonstrably unpopular, and has to rely on a parliamentary majority which its opponents declare to have been secured by unconstitutional means. It might be well, therefore, if the Liberals find that they have not yet overcome the difficulties in the way of a foreign loan, that they should themselves prepare for a future Coalition Government. An understanding with the Opposition parties on this point would enable the work of the present session, in-

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cluding electoral reform, to be expedited, and then, after the elections, the leader of the strongest party in the new Parliament would be pledged to form a Coalition Ministry, which would carry on the financial policy of the Liberals in so far as it had received the support of the country as a whole.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN PALESTINE.

By Lieut.-Colonel J. B. BARRON, O.B.E., M.C.
(Late Director of Customs and Trade, Government of Palestine.)

The financial position in Palestine is probably without parallel to that in any other British colony or mandatory territory. The rival claims of Arab and Jew, the religious differences of the many faiths, and the uncertain frontier conditions have raised into prominence the more interesting and debatable questions of politics. The no less urgent needs of finance connected with budgetary requirements and the restoration of trade have been pushed into the background or allowed to lapse through the necessity of providing solutions to the many disturbing issues raised by the Balfour Declaration or by political propaganda.

It was unfortunate that at the time when the Military Administration gave place to a civil Government a wave of prosperity following the trade boom in Europe during 1919-1920 gave an entirely false impression of the commercial and financial possibilities of the territory. Receipts from taxes and Customs duties were swollen to an unprecedented degree. Thus, for the first complete financial year ending March 31, 1922, the revenue amounted to £2,048,000, and the expenditure to £1,809,000. For a small country of less than eight hundred thousand people, without any industries other than agriculture and its ancillary industries, these figures may appear highly encouraging, but the estimates for 1923-4 show that the revenue has fallen to £1,833,000, while the expenditure has slightly increased. The actuals for the year have not yet been made public, and it will probably be found that the receipts have decreased to a figure considerably lower.

The financial summaries given in the annual reports do not, however, include a number of capital charges which must be met in part next year and in succeeding years. It is a consideration of these commitments that show the difficult position in which the Palestine Administration now finds itself.

The Question of the Loan.

Since 1920 the authorities have waited for the propitious moment to float a loan of £3,000,000. Against the proposed loan the Government has borrowed from the Crown Agents in London and from accumulated funds owing to that section of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration which formerly operated in Palestine large sums to expend upon works of a capital nature. At March 31, 1923, the total liabilities were approximately £4,500,000, which includes borrowed capital to the extent of £1,719,000. The sum of £2,190,000 is due to the British Government for military works, such as roads, railways, and stores taken over by the civil Administration. This debt may be subject to reduction at the final valuation, and is not bearing interest, but there remains a sum of £2,210,000 that must be met in the near future. In addition, an annuity now becomes payable to the Ottoman Public Debt, which may amount to £150,000, and the Budget must also, on the flotation of the loan, bear amortization and interest charges.

The possibility of retrieving the situation lies in a successful loan. But Palestine is a mandatory territory, and as such it is doubtful whether the various British Finance Acts can be applied to Palestine. These Acts have enabled undeveloped portions of the Empire to raise large amounts of money at little cost or at no inconvenience to themselves, except a formal declaration from the colony concerned that it will follow the narrow path of sound finance. In particular, the Colonial Stock Act of 1900 requires that a colony shall satisfy the British Treasury as to the existence of adequate funds for the payment of loan charges. As an alternative the guarantee of the home authorities would provide an adequate safeguard for investors. Of the funds available from the proposed loan, after repayment of £1,719,000 borrowed from the Crown Agents, etc., has been made, scarcely a million and a quarter pounds will remain for development schemes.

To balance the Budget during the next few years steps must be taken either to reduce recurrent expenditure by "cuts" or to expand revenue. An additional sum of approximately £150,000 is required to cover the likelihood of an annual deficit, and with a falling revenue it is doubtful whether this sum can be made good by new taxation.

A general review of the possibilities of increasing taxation has already been made, but agricultural countries do not offer an extensive field for experiments. The introduction of an income-tax has been considered and rejected. Customs and Excise duties have recently been substantially increased in order to provide against a deficit in the present Budget, and it remains to be seen where funds can be found to cover the interest charges and sinking fund for the proposed loan.

Imports and Exports.

With diminishing revenue returns it is no surprise to find that the trade returns have shown a steady decline since 1921. In that year the imports amounted to six millions sterling, while the average for the past three years falls short of this total by £600,000. Exports in 1923 amounted to £1,600,000.

The remarkable difference in the import and export figures is difficult to explain, the more so as the export values include heavy specie payments to America. There can be no doubt that there is a large investment of money in Palestine, and much purchase of land by means of outside capital, but no reliable calculations can be quoted. The invisible indebtedness may also be reduced by remittances to immigrants and to religious and other charitable institutions. Jewish enterprises remit large sums for educational, colonisation, and land reclamation schemes, whilst various Christian institutions distribute charity in goods or in money amounting to considerable sums. It is probable that capital to the extent of a million sterling reaches Palestine annually in this form; and, though not entirely a healthy sign, it serves to reduce the adverse balance of trade. To these credits may be added substantial sums brought in annually by an increasing and lucrative tourist traffic.

The state of international demand which results in commercial equilibrium being realised cannot for many years be attained, and the unsatisfactory position of an excess of imports over exports is likely to continue. Whatever factors may be taken into consideration theoretically to reduce the dimensions of this excess, it is doubtful whether any improvement can be recorded until the productivity of the territory has increased to an extent that allows of its products being marketed in neighbouring countries at prices equal to its com-

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petitors. The chief and controlling cause is one of labour, and so long as the costs of labour are in advance of those elsewhere, the Palestine export trade must stand at a disadvantage. Further, the conservative tendencies of the rural population have served to perpetuate antiquated methods of cultivation. The Jewish and German agricultural colonies should, however, be cited as exceptions, the colonists having experimented successfully with new crops, besides introducing many profitable industries dependent upon agriculture.

With the high cost of labour and with an Arab population of conservative tendencies, whose handiwork and methods of agriculture are behind those of Egypt and Syria, the economic possibilities of Palestine require a far-seeing and progressive scheme of expansion. Side by side there exist two races having different standards of industrial enterprise—the Arab majority, out of touch with Western methods, and the Jewish minority, whose resourceful purpose introduces modern processes of industry. The territory has suffered during the past four years from attempts on the part of European agencies to establish industries with little or no economic basis upon which success could be attained. Small industries have been started dependent upon imported raw materials, and much capital has been expended in unremunerative projects both by the Government and by business men, but this phase of inflation is passing, and is being succeeded by surer, if slower, methods of investment.

Reform of Land Tenure.

The immediate necessities of finance demand that every avenue of possible economy should be explored, with the two-fold object of relieving the present deadweight of expenditure and of rescuing agricultural and other industries from the stagnation and clogging effects of three years of depression. Important as this consideration must be, the development of the territory should proceed side by side with financial reform, and now that the maladministration of the country for centuries by the Turks has given place to an ordered Government, it is possible to introduce reforms and improvements.

The civil Government has been in power for four years, and during that period it has accumulated knowledge and experience sufficient to proceed with a policy calculated to make Palestine a self-sufficient and economically sound State. Agriculture is the only reliable basis for the establishment of healthy national economy, and though in future assistance may be obtained from the mineral resources of the Dead Sea, the trade of the territory is dependent upon agriculture. There are two causes that operate against it—*i.e.*, the confusion existing in the system of land tenure and the absence of land settlement and the crushing burden of taxation.

A primitive form of land registration exists, the chief weakness of the system being the fact that no cadastral or other survey permits land to be correctly described by reference either to area or to boundaries. The chaos arising from the absence of any proper form of land registration or of title has had the effect of removing an incentive to improve the methods of agriculture, and has prevented to a very serious degree the investment of capital. The establishment of an agricultural bank is of an urgent need, and would be productive of immediate results, yet in the absence of land settlement the potent influence of ready money for improvements and for the purchase of good seed must to a large extent be denied to cultivators. An authoritative investigation of real rights and a reform of the obsolete land laws appear to be a preliminary to the establishment of economic prosperity.

The evil consequences of a defective system of land tenure and registration are enhanced through a mediæval fiscal system. The cultivator bears a triple tax in the payment of a small tax upon the capital value of land, a tithe on his produce, and a tax *per capita* upon sheep, goats, and camels. The tithe is a survival of the Koranic law, and is an extremely heavy impost. One-eighth of the actual crop harvested is compulsorily commuted into a cash payment before the cultivator has marketed his crop. In a report published by the Government of Palestine it is calculated that the tithe was equivalent in 1921 to an average minimum income-tax on the cultivator of 30 per cent. in one district and of 45 per cent. in another. The tithe system arose out of the ruler's proprietorship of the soil, and its sole merit is that it is adjusted to the fertility of the land. It does not allow for the expenses of production nor the proximity of markets, and it is, moreover, inconvenient in the form of assessment. Under the Roman Empire the disabilities of the tax were met by efforts at differentiation in the fertility of the soil; even the Turkish Government recognised the extreme inconvenience and hardship caused to the cultivator, and efforts were made in 1911 to commute the tithe to an annual tax based upon the average yield of seven years. Its substitution by a fixed land tax is a very urgent necessity, and should be initiated side by side with a cadastral survey.

A competent authority has recently estimated that a survey of Palestine may be completed within six years. Agriculture can never attain economic stability until the settlement of rights is completed and a fixed statutory tax is introduced. Indeed, the facts would appear to be so little capable of dispute that it is a matter of surprise that they have not already received recognition through legislation. The payment of a fixed annual contribution must be expected to meet with opposition from those who have left the land undeveloped and uncultivated, but it must steadily operate to force an increase in the acreage under cultivation, together with intensive methods of agriculture. Political opposition may also ensue, but the consciousness that the system weighs with exceptional severity on the people of Palestine is evident from the amount of criticism that the assessment of tithe brings forward each year.

The defects of land systems of Oriental States and the inequalities of their fiscal methods are due to the conservative ideas of their native rulers. Time has rendered them obsolete, and in some Eastern countries, under European influence, the dead wood has been lopped away, or the old systems have been entirely replaced by modern legislation. In Egypt Mohammed Ali did much to simplify the land code by requiring the compulsory division of all lands held in common tenure. The French in Algeria commenced a cadastral survey in the sixties of the last century, and as late as 1917 reformed taxation by abolishing the tithe and other taxes in favour of a land tax.

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Harbours.

To this general survey mention must be made of the proposed scheme for the construction of a port at Haifa or Jaffa. The claims of both localities are under consideration, but it is questionable whether in the present state of the territory's finance the proposal must not be shelved for some years. It will involve a second loan of not less than a million pounds, with a recurrent expenditure of £100,000, including maintenance and interest charges.

Politics and Economics.

The influence of politics has set its stamp on the economic situation of the territory. It is impossible to ignore the effects of the unnatural boundaries fixed by agreement during the War, or to exaggerate the dislocation of trade occasioned by the disturbances and disputes arising from the actions of political factions within the territory. It cannot look for financial assistance to Great Britain; it must be self-supporting. This it can never be so long as political considerations outweigh questions of public and private finance. History has proved that a sound economic policy goes far towards solving the problems of the statesman.

THE PALESTINE WEEKLY.

The *Palestine Weekly*, of Jerusalem, has issued an attractive special tourist number. Contrary to custom, it concentrates mainly on the present condition and the potentialities of the Holy Land, attempting to survey the actual endeavours in regard to such things as archæology, industry, commerce, agriculture, civics, communications, and so on that are now being made. The articles are fairly comprehensive, and a very good idea of Jewish activities can be obtained from them. They are well set out, and, for the most part, well illustrated. Altogether, it is a useful and worthy compendium.

PALESTINE AND THE JEWS.

In commemoration of the entry of the first Anglican Bishop into Jerusalem in 1842, the London Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews held a meeting at Westminster, on January 21. The Rev. Dr. A. E. Richardson (Warden of the Church Army), who presided, said that one of the signs of the coming of the Messiah was the flocking of the Jews to Jerusalem. They were returning at the rate of over 2,000 a month, and everything that was happening in the world seemed to be driving the Jews back into Palestine. Just before Christmas, 1923, a proclamation was issued by the Chief Rabbi at Jerusalem exhorting the Jews to return to Palestine, and expressing the opinion that the Messiah was coming in the year 1925. Dr. Richardson said that he saw no reason why the Messiah should not come back this year. "We are looking for Christ," he added, "and the Jews are looking for the Messiah, and we know that He is one and the same."

The Commission appointed by the League of Nations to report on the Mosul boundary question arrived in Mosul last week.

A collection of "Papers relating to the application to Iraq of the principles of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations" has been published by H.M. Stationery Office as a White Paper (Cmd. 2317), price 2d.

Mr. A. Lucas, formerly director of the Egyptian Government laboratories and chemical expert to the Antiquities Department, left Cairo last week for Luxor in order to resume work on Mr. Howard Carter's staff at Tutankhamen's tomb.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A council meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on January 21 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. T. C. Armitage (President) being in the chair. There were also present Messrs. H. V. M. Clark, C. W. Hough, Edward Hurtley, Major G. B. Ollivant, Mr. W. F. Saunt, Lieut.-Col. P. D. Stewart, D.S.O., Mr. R. S. Summerhays, Major C. B. Toms, O.B.E., and the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore. Letters of regret for not being able to be present were received from Lieut.-Col. T. R. Badger, Major G. H. Barker, Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, R. B. Colton Fox, Col. J. Hamilton Leigh, Lieut.-Col. W. A. MacDougall, D.S.O., Major Sydney A. Medcalf, T.D., Col. T. G. Peacocke, C.I.E., C.V.O., and Capt. the Hon. G. Savile.

Arrangements were made with regard to the London, the Royal, the Bath and West, and the Northumberland Shows.

The following new members were elected:—Mrs. M. S. Bolam, The Wharie Stud, South Sway, Hants; Roy Falcey, Park Nook, Gosforth, Cumberland (proposed by Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance); W. F. Holman, Lake House, Prestbury, Glos.; W. B. D. Muirhead, The Wharie Stud, South Sway, Hants; Lady F. Warner, Woodcroft, Mottingham Lane, S.E. (proposed by C. W. Hough).

CHAPLAIN-GENERAL TO THE FORCES.

The King, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for War, has approved the appointment of the Rev. A. C. E. Jarvis, Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Class, and Assistant Chaplain-General, Northern Command, to be Chaplain-General to the Forces, in succession to Bishop J. Taylor-Smith, who relinquishes that appointment on attaining the age limit next April. The new Chaplain-General, who has chief charge of the spiritual welfare of the troops, did faithful work during the War in Gallipoli, Salonika, and Egypt, and in the later stages he was the principal chaplain in Mesopotamia. Not only was he often mentioned in despatches and specially promoted, but he received the M.C., the C.M.G., and the Serbian Order of the White Eagle. Since 1920 he has been the Assistant Chaplain-General and attached to the headquarters of the Northern Command.

Mr. C. R. Das left Patna on January 27, for a month's rest and holiday.

A Treaty of friendship between Denmark and Turkey was signed at Angora on January 26.

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THE CONDITION OF OMAN.

A letter received recently from Muskat, Oman, Arabia, dated December 14, 1924, contains the following interesting information :—

"Oman is now suffering from a dreadful aridity, due to the scantiness of rainfall in the country during the last few years. Many trees have died; the water is scanty, and the losses resulting from this aridity are very heavy.

"His Highness Saiyid Taimour, the Sultan of Muskat, has been on a visit to India, where he has been staying for the last seven months. He is expected to return soon to Muskat.

"It is rumoured that the Sultan will, after the middle of February, 1925, leave for Dhofar, the south-western district of Oman, lying on the coast of the Indian Ocean, where his brother, Saiyid Mohammed Bin Faisal, lately died.

"The Government of Muskat is now administered by a Council of State, formed of Saiyid Nadir, His Highness's brother, as President, Saiyid Mohammed Bin Ghashsham, and Sheikh Rashid Bin Ozaiviz as members, and Zobair Bin Ali Jumaah as Secretary of this Council.

"Owing to the Sultan's dissatisfaction with the said Council's proceedings, he spends a great deal of his time out of Muskat. It is believed that a new Council will soon replace the present one.

"The Sultan intends to create the post of a Legal Adviser to his Court. The post, if created, will be occupied by a British officer.

"Mr. Bower, an Englishman, has been put in charge of the Customs in Oman for four months as probationer."

LORD GRENFELL AND EGYPT.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Chargé d'Affaires of the Egyptian Legation in London, who has already joined in the mourning for the regretted death of Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell by wiring his sympathy to the family, offering a wreath and by attending the memorial service, went on February 1 to the Foresters, Windlesham, Surrey, in order to communicate to the family the cable of the President of the Egyptian Council of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressing the condolence of His Majesty the King of Egypt, and to present, as desired, the sincere condolences of the Egyptian Government.

He was received by the Honourable Pascoe Grenfell and other members of the family, who expressed to him their high appreciation and deep gratitude for the sympathy of His Majesty the King of Egypt and of the Egyptian Government.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Queen Olga, of Greece, has taken up her residence in Rome.

M. Dragomier Yankovitch, State Chamberlain at the Yugoslav Court, has returned to Belgrade from Paris.

General Yoximovitch, of the Serbian War Office, has returned to Belgrade after visiting London on a special mission.

M. Michalakopoulos, Greek Prime Minister, has taken over the portfolio of Foreign Minister in succession to M. Roussos, who has resigned.

Sir Rabindranath Tagore arrived last week in Genoa from South America, and has arranged to give a series of lectures in Italy, the first of which was held at Milan on January 22.

Hilmi Gayar, the student leader who, on December 22, gave himself up to the Public Prosecutor in Cairo conducting the inquiry into the murder of the Sirdar, was released recently.

Last Friday was the thirty-first anniversary of the birth of the King of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Minister, on behalf of the members of the colony in London, sent a congratulatory message to King Boris at Sofia.

Motor lorries entering Persia have been exempted from Customs duties for five years.

Amateur wireless communication was established between Melbourne and Mesopotamia on January 29.

Lieutenant Mittelholzer, the Swiss pilot, who left Zurich on December 18 on a flight to Persia, arrived last week at Teheran.

Zia Bey, a prominent Albanian politician, is reported to have been shot dead in Tirana, where, it is stated, he was trying to escape from pursuers.

It is stated that a new Pro-Zionist Society, comprising Chinese, Japanese, Parsees. Hindus and Moslems, both Arab and Indian, has been formed by Dr. Ariel Bension, in Shanghai.

Zaghloul Pasha, as President of the Wafd, has telegraphed to the British Foreign Minister protesting against the recent British action in the Sudan, which he declares portends the separation of the Sudan from Egypt.

Captain P. K. Campbell, the Black Watch, formerly A.D.C. to Major-General Sir Lee Stack, has arrived in Cairo to assist in the inquiry into the Sirdar's murder in the hope that he will be able to identify some of the assailants.

H.H. the Aga Khan arrived at Port Said on January 27. from Alexandria. He was met at the station by the Governor and other officials, and left early the following day by special train for Suez to join the steamer Dumbea for Mombasa and Zanzibar.

The introduction in the Indian Legislative Assembly of the Pundit Motital Nehru's Bill to supersede the Bengal Ordinance for the suppression of terrorist crime has been refused by the Viceroy, but the Assembly discussed a resolution on the subject on January 28.

Mar Shimun XXI., the Patriarch of the Assyrian Christians, who is visiting England for a course of education under English teachers, arrived at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, on January 27. A special course of instruction is being arranged for him at Canterbury.

On the proposal of the Yugoslav Minister of Justice. King Alexander has signed a decree granting an amnesty to a number of Montenegrins condemned for political offences up to the end of 1919, the amnesty to include offences committed during the period of enemy occupation, but excepting persons who fled to foreign countries and were sentenced *in contumaciam*.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Insurance of Credits.

Quite the most interesting event for many weeks from the point of view of the business world was the speech delivered at the Leeds Chamber of Commerce last Thursday by Mr. A. M. Samuel, Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Overseas Trade. After referring to the great "tramways" of the export trade, such as the banks and insurance, he declared that he felt that a new tramway should be established in the shape of credit insurance. He asked whether the Chambers of Commerce could consult the insurance companies and see if they could devise a scheme for the insurance of bills drawn for British goods exported to countries where there might be risks other than those usually faced by commerce. He indicated that if the insurance companies were prepared to issue policies of this order providing *inter alia* for the risks of default through war, he would consult with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and see if it was possible, through the Department of Overseas Trade, for a premium to take the war risk from the insurance companies.

A Serious Obstacle to Trade.

There is no question whatever that the lack of security attached to credits granted for goods in certain countries has been one of the gravest obstacles in the way of the extension of our export trade, and Mr. Samuel's remarks will be widely welcomed in business circles as indicative of the intention of the Government to do all that lies in their power to overcome the difficulties that lie in the way of the expansion of commerce. As I have frequently pointed out, we need all the markets that exist if our export trade is to develop to a point which will enable the absorption of the present surplus of labour. The markets where conditions are good will not suffice, and the competition in them is constantly growing, while our position in some of our best pre-war markets is not what it was. These considerations make it essential that no possible outlet for trade should remain unexplored, and the insurance of credits is unquestionably the most far-reaching step that could be taken in present conditions to achieve the desired end.

The Existing Scheme.

One would be entitled, I think, to see in Mr. Samuel's remarks a recognition of the successful working of the scheme for credits insurance which has been in operation for certain countries on the Continent for a considerable time. At the present time the scheme covers countries like France, Holland, and Germany, and it has not yet been applied to the region in which it is most needed —the Near East—because it has been felt that it would be better first to establish a chain of organisations in the countries nearer home. Preliminary steps have been taken, however, as I have already pointed out, I believe, in these Notes, with a view to preparing the ground in at least two of the Near Eastern countries, but it is not such an easy matter to arrange in the Near East as in Continental countries—the question of the co-operation of the local insurance companies being one serious obstacle. It is, however, merely a matter of time for the scheme to be extended in this direction, and if, as would seem certain from what Mr. Samuel said, the Government is now going to help indirectly in the matter, it will go far to accelerate matters, and it need not be emphasised that in no region would British trade be more likely to derive immediate benefit from such a scheme than in the Near East. There is ample trade to be obtained, but it is all a question of credits, as it always has been there, and, of course, under the existing conditions of the exchange, it naturally follows that the demand for extended credit is much more pronounced. At any rate, we now have a remedy—in part, at least—if only it can be applied.

The Rubber Position.

The last week of January saw a most interesting position arise with regard to rubber. January 31 was the end of the current quarter under the restriction scheme, and the increase in the percentage of rubber production by 5 or 10 per cent. depended on a fractional rise in the price of the raw commodity. By a very narrow margin it failed to average 1s. 6d. for the quarter, and so the increase is only 5 per cent. One grows wary of prophesying what the course of rubber will be in the light of what has happened in the past, but, in view of the low stocks in London—which now amount to no more than three weeks' world's supply—and their gradual reduction (for the past week there was again a substantial fall), it seems inevitable that the next month or so should witness a sharp rise in the price of the commodity. At any rate, that would be the rational outcome of the situation, but then the only safe attitude to take up with regard to rubber is to look for the unexpected, and even then one may be disappointed.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE LIUBLIANA FUR FAIR.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

For many years past there has been an annual fur fair in Liubliana, held by old tradition on the third Monday after Twelfth Night, and in very informal fashion, at some accessible and available place, with unofficial annexes at various popular inns of the town. The best of the business, indeed, was said to be done there, and not on the advertised premises. This year, for the first time, an attempt has been made to develop this fair into an event of more than local importance. To this end the Liubliana Fair Committee and the Hunters' Association *(Lovska Zadruga)* jointly made arrangements to have the fair held on January 21, in the grounds and buildings of the Liubliana Samples Fair. The result has been encouraging, though the methods of sale were still those pursued on former occasions, and nothing had been done as yet to adapt them to the conclusion of wholesale deals.

The number of skins brought in for sale was greatly in excess of that of last year. This year there were 2,500 fox skins, whereas last year there were only 835; 700 marten, both yellow and white-breasted (better known to the ultimate fortunate wearer as sables), as against 140 last year; 400 badgers (last year only 30); 5,000 dormouse skins; 200 polecat, which certainly sounds less attractive than fitch; 70 wild cat; 1,000 mole; 14,000 hamster; and 20,000 hares. Of course, the skins varied very widely in quality, but there were some very fine specimens to be seen. Prices ruled considerably lower in dinars than last year, owing to the rise of the dinar, rather to the disappointment of the local farmers and hunters. Foxes fetched from 300 to 400 dinars, or even less; white-breasted marten 800 to 900 dinars; yellow-breasted marten from 1,000 to 1,300 dinars. The writer saw some really beautiful and exceptionally large furs at the latter price. Dormouse skin is something of a Slovene speciality. The men wear caps of it in winter; made up into collars and cuffs it is not unbecoming, and is not a bad substitute for grey squirrel as lining or trimming. Dormouse skins fetched from 10 to 12 dinars; squirrels, 15; hares, 14 to 21; otters, 800 to 1,000 dinars; badgers 80 to 120 dinars; roe deers, 25 to 30 dinars; hamster rats, 10 to 12 dinars; polecats (fitch), 100 to 150 dinars; wild cats, 80 to 110; and moles, 7 to 10 dinars. Most of the skins were of Slovene origin. The large number of hamster skins seemed, however, to have been brought mainly from Slavonia.

It is one of the attractive side interests of these fairs that they give one a chance of seeing not only the products of the various parts of the country, but the people as well. One could not help noting the contrast between the melodious speech of the Croat trappers and the homely monosyllabic talk of the Slovene hunters. Yet to one who understands both idioms, each has its charm, and long may the countryfolk preserve the tradition of their respective dialects! Apparently, the ultimate fate of most of the hamster skins—fat cosy grey pads of fur edged with glossy black of rather finer texture—is to be worked up into large pieces of mahogany-coloured fur for rugs and linings, to be called by some totally different name, and unrecognisably different in appearance from the original animal.

The sales effected at the fair were, as far as absolute figures go, far larger than last year. But owing to unexpectedly large supplies on the

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one hand, and insufficient publicity on the other, not enough business was done. Few foreign buyers had come, and rather than let their goods go at any price, the owners decided to hold back and wait for another opportunity. The result of this is that a second fur fair will be held at Liubliana later on —probably on March 4—under the auspices of the Hunters' Association, when the furs left over from the January fair will be put up for sale once more, together with fresh stocks. The *Lovska Zadruga* (Hunters' Association) would, by arrangement, undertake to buy direct from the hunters for foreign firms.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following particulars are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended December 15 :—

In Northern Iraq beneficial rains have fallen during the month, the measurements at Mosul and Arbil being 1.15 in. and 4.76 in. respectively, but in Lower Iraq small showers only have been recorded. Owing to the absence of rain, the sowing of the cereal crop in Lower Iraq has been materially delayed, but in Northern Iraq good progress is reported. A rainfall of .74 in. was recorded at Baghdad on December 15, 1924, and this has enabled cultivators in Middle Iraq to go ahead with their winter sowings.

The water supply in irrigation canals is reported as being good, and winter sowings on irrigated lands are well in hand. A rise of about 3 metres was recorded both in the Tigris at Baghdad and in the Euphrates at Fellujah during the first few days of December.

Early sown wheat and barley on irrigated lands have germinated well, and good growth is reported. The harvesting of the rice crop is completed. Good acre-yields of rice have been reported from Amarah, although the total crop for that area is less than usual due to the smaller area cultivated. The average yield of late rice in this area is approximately 1,600 kilos per acre. Grazing still continues to be scanty, and green fodder from early sown barley is not yet available in quantity.

At the Government Experimental Farm, Rustam, good progress has been made with the sowing of winter cereals, both in the varietal tests and in the propagation areas. The bulk crop of cotton grown at Rustam is now finished and has given an average yield of 800 lbs. seed cotton per acre over an area of 95 acres. Weekly pickings still continue on the varietal test cottons, but they are now small. The different varieties of cotton under experiment had given yields varying from 1,341 lb. to 1,945 lb. per acre up to the end of November, with an average yield of 1,695 lb. per acre, as compared with 1,537 lb. and 2,110 lb. for complete crops for the two preceding years. It is of interest to note that the variety of cotton that has given the lowest yield in this year's experiments is the local variety which has been grown yearly for purposes of comparison. In this year's experiments the cotton pickings from plots grown after lucerne and heurteman show about 25 per cent. better yield than those following bare fallow. All varieties of sugarcane under test are ripening, and the effect of cold nights and occasional frost is beginning to show on the leaves. Sowings of flax and linseed have been made.

Cotton pickings continued throughout the month. The deliveries of seed cotton to Messrs. British Cotton Growing Association Ginnery up to the end of November, 1924, totalled 3,045,719 lb., equal to approximately 2,000 bales of 400 lb. lint, as compared with 1,000 bales for the same period in 1923, 300 bales in 1922, and 60 bales in 1921.

A consignment of approximately 18 tons of wheat arrived from India during the month, and has been disposed of to cultivators.

Work in connection with the locust campaign is proceeding. A good deal of reliable information has now been collected by the Agricultural Circle Officer, Mosul, with regard to the situation of breeding grounds and possible methods of destroying locusts in the egg stage.

Three hundred and twenty packets of silk eggs have been received from Europe. They have arrived in good condition. A further 200 packets are en route. A tour has been made by the Silk Inspector of the Basrah and Amarah Liwahs with the view to stimulating the industry in those areas.

The retting of the flax crop grown at the Ba'qubah Demonstration Farm was started at Salachivah on November 19. As soon as it is ready, it will be scutched together with a further quantity which has been retted at Rustam.

The July to November, 1924, exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,022 tons, and of barley 25,100 tons—total 26,122 tons, as compared with 104,775 tons for the same period last year. The August-November, 1924, exports of dates from Iraq were 127,472 tons, valued at Rs. 1,65,07,972, as compared with 87,182 tons, valued at Rs. 1,15,133 for the corresponding season last year. The July-November, 1924, exports of wool from Iraq were 13,161 tons, as compared with 2,745 tons exported during the same seasons last year.

IMPORTANT CONTRACT FOR VICKERS.

Owing to the increased demand for light and power in the Fulham area, considerable extensions were rendered necessary to the generating station of the borough. The contract, which covers two 6,000 kw. steam turbine generators, condensers, boilers, and complete equipment, together with foundations and buildings, etc., was awarded last year to Messrs. Vickers, Limited, as main contractors in keen competition with home and foreign manufacturers. The obtaining of a contract placed by the borough of Fulham with a firm in a position to manufacture practically a complete power station in their own or associated companies' factories is in itself an achievement that any British firm might be proud of, especially as these factories are in Great Britain, employing thousands of British workmen. In compliance with the urgent request of the electricity committee and Mr. A. J. Fuller, the borough engineer, to meet the heavy winter requirements, the contractors proceeded sufficiently far to enable the supply of energy from the first of the new units to be available early in December (less than eight months from the commencement of the work), despite the fact that progress on the buildings and foundation was seriously handicapped for a period of eight weeks last summer, due to the builders' strike. The firms included, among the sub-contractors, all of whom are members of the Vickers group, are :— Messrs. Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., Limited, who are responsible for the steam turbines, generator plant, switchgear, etc.; Messrs. Vickers-Spearing Boiler Co., Limited, who are supplying the boilers, with attendant equipment; and Messrs. W. T. Glover and Co., Limited, who are providing the cables; while the condensers are the product of the Barrow Works of Vickers, Limited. Messrs. Sir William Arrol and Sons, Limited, are supplying the 50-ton electric overhead travelling crane.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Demand for Dried Fruit.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—A steady tone has prevailed. Stocks of Brazilian in London are now 12,358 bags, as compared with 15,030 bags a year ago. Futures are: —March, 117s. 6d.; May, 117s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand at unchanged prices. Foreign descriptions have been steady. White Java spot has been done at 30s. 9d., while Czech granulated has come to business at 31s. 6d. Futures are harder. Quotations are:—March, 17s. 10½d.; May, 18s.; August, 18s.; December, 17s. 10½d.

Tea.—Prices have been irregular during the week, and, on the whole, the tone has been rather easier. Common broken Pekoe was done at 1s. 5¾d., while broken orange Pekoe brought from 1s. 9½d. to 3s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been a firm spot. Indian has come to business at 25s. 3d., while for February-March the rate is the same. La Plata is harder at 23s. 4¾d., while 23s. 6d. is asked for February-March. Rapeseed has been dull. Toria is 20s. 6d. spot, and 19s. 9d. for February-March. Cottonseed has made a firm showing. Indian is 10s. 6d., Egyptian black is 13s. 4½d., while Sakellarides is 12s. 10½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been a very firm spot, and has risen sharply to 53s. For March-April the rate asked is 51s. 9d., while for May-August it is the same. Rape oil has been featureless, with crude at 50s. and technical refined at 53s. Cotton oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 50s. 6d., Bombay crude is 43s. 6d., Egyptian crude is 46s. 6d., while deodorised is 52s. 6d.

Currants.—There has been a revival in the demand for currants during the past week. Gulf and Panariti have been the medium of a good deal of business, though the bulk of the inquiry has centred round Vostizzas. The tone of the market generally is steady, but it would not be surprising if prices were to firm up a little in the near future.

Sultanas.—A firm tone has continued to rule in this market, and Smyrnas and Cretans have again been the medium of a large trade.

Figs.—Supplies of figs are now very short as the result of the good and sustained demand, and the market generally is very firm, the tendency being for prices to move upwards.

Plums.—The market is very firm, supplies being decidedly small, and prices are advancing.

Dates.—There has been a steady demand for this commodity, and with supplies on an adequate scale it is reasonable to look for an expansion of business.

Oranges.—Supplies are now coming to hand very freely, but the market position is more or less the same, for the demand grows in keeping with larger stocks. Jaffas have been a very firm spot, and are readily going into consumption.

Maize.—The market is firm. La Plata spot has been done at 47s., while for February-March 49s. is asked. Bulgarian February-March has come to business at 48s.

As was the case last year, letters handled by the General Post Office will advertise the coming British Empire Exhibition.

Mr. J. A. Todd, M.A., B.L., Principal of the Liverpool School of Commerce, is giving a course of nine lectures at the school on "Shipping Economics."

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their monthly report dated February 2, state:—

Currants.—With the exception of some sales of Zante effected during one brief period of activity, January trading was characterised by the extreme quietude which is usually associated with that month. Holders, in view of the statistical position, showed no impatience to force matters, and the slight decline in values noticeable is attributable to the decline in the Greek exchange. With any improvement of the drachma values should quickly recover, and this, coupled with the spirit of optimism prevailing in the country as to improvement of trading conditions, makes the outlook encouraging. Business reported:—Pyrgos, 40s; Pyrgos, cleaned, 41s. 6d. to 42s.; Amalias and Patras, cleaned, 43s. to 46s.; Zante, 42s. to 46s; Gulf, 48s. to 50s.; Vostizza, ordinary, 46s.; Vostizza, shade dried, 50s. to 53s.; Vostizza, few fine, 56s. to 62s. The Flaminian, with about 200 tons, arrived.

Sultanas.—The market keeps steady, although business has not expanded as was hoped for, considering the stock carried over on December 31 compared with previous year, and the continued reports from Smyrna of months of drought at a season when rain is a vital necessity to the growing crops. Cretans have been offered, and some parcels changed hands round 60s. to 62s., representing excellent value. Some business in Smyrna, good 60s. and fine 72s. 6d. to 80s., but ordinary and medium grades were neglected. Greeks: Selling slowly, 58s. to 63s. 6d. up to 70s. fine. Australians: Holders have raised their limits, and very few parcels are now obtainable under 50s. Sales were 47s. 6d. to 50s. Capes: Sun-dried variety passed into consumption 44s.

Figs.—Small boxes were pressed for sale at 37s. 6d., and fair business resulted; large boxes, 45s. to 47s. Bags naturals, slow sale, 28s. to 33s.

DECLINE IN IVORY PRICES.

Messrs. Hale and Son, in their report on the quarterly ivory sales which concluded on January 28, state:—

They comprised 56¼ tons (against 43½ tons same time last year), viz.: 28¾ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam, 4½ tons Abyssinian, 11½ tons Egyptian (10½ tons Alexandrian, 1 ton Malta description), 9½ tons Congo, West Coast African, and Lisbon, and 2 tons land carriage; also 6¼ tons mammoth tusks, ¼ ton sea-horse tusks, ¼ ton rhinoceros horns, ½ ton narwhal horns, and ¼ ton walrus tusks. Total 63¾ tons. Of the above quantities only 3¾ tons consisted of lots previously offered or indirect import, viz.: ¼ ton East Indian and Egyptian, ½ ton Abyssinian, 2 tons land carriage, and 1 ton mammoth tusks.

The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 17¾ tons soft tusks, 1 ton hard ditto, and few Siam, 1¼ tons billiard ball pieces, ¼ ton bagatelle pieces, 1½ tons cut points for balls, 1¼ tons cut points off large tusks, ½ ton under-size and defective points, etc., 1¼ tons billiard ball scrivelloes, ¼ ton bagatelle scrivelloes, ½ ton scrivelloes, and 3¼ tons cut hollows. During the progress of the sales 9¾ tons were bought in, viz.: 3¼ tons East Indian, ¼ ton Egyptian, ¾ ton Abyssinian, 2 tons Congo, and 3½ tons mammoth tusks.

The sales were well attended, and there was good competition throughout. America and the Con-

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tinent bought freely, and the home trade took its usual quantity. The quantity catalogued was larger than the preceding auctions, owing to larger imports from Zanzibar and East Africa. Prices for soft large and medium tusks showed some irregularity, but were generally well maintained to rather dearer. Hard was steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower. Billiard ball ivory declined from £5 to £15 per cwt.

Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East Africa, and Siam.—Soft large and medium tusks were steady to £2 to £4 per cwt. higher. Hard was steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower. Billiard ball pieces and scrivelloes.—The larger sizes were £5 to £10 per cwt. lower on the average, although some prime lots brought full prices, but the smaller sizes declined £10 to £15 per cwt. Bagatelle points and scrivelloes were also about £10 per cwt. lower. Cut points for balls and cut points off large teeth.—Although some lots brought previous rates they were generally £10 to £15 per cwt. lower. Scrivelloes were firm to rather dearer. Cut hollows, on the whole, were steady. Soft bangle tusks were irregular, the larger sizes in some instances being a little higher, and small rather lower.

Abyssinian.—Large and medium tusks were steady to £2 per cwt. higher. Scrivelloes firm to rather dearer. Ball scrivelloes from £5 to £15 per cwt. lower.

Egyptian.—The quantity offered of this description was less than at last auctions. Soft large and medium tusks were about steady to £2 to £4 per cwt. dearer, and hard were steady to £2 to £3 per cwt. lower. Scrivelloes firm to rather dearer. Ball scrivelloes £5 to £15 per cwt. lower.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Creosoted Poles.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invite tenders for the supply of creosoted poles, stout, 40 ft. long, to E.S.R., specification No. 51C. February 12.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping plant. February 15. (D.O.T.)

Bunting, etc.—The Secretary General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of bunting, ropes, canvas, hose, etc., required for 1925-1926. February 16.

Uniforms.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms required during the financial year 1925-26. February 20.

Cement.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 2,000 metrical tons Portland cement. February 21.

Photographic Material.—The Ministry of Interior invites tenders for the supply for the year 1925 of various photographic materials. March 16. (D.O.T.)

Printing Plates.—The Surveyor General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium lithographic printing plates required for 1925-1926. March 18.

Roumania.

Turbo-Generator.—The Municipal Electric Works of Timisoara (Transylvania) invites tenders for the supply of a turbo-generator, Scott transformers, a high-tension feeder, and various accessories. March 26 (D.O.T.)

Locomotives.—H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. Charles Goodwin) reports that a firm has approached him asking to be furnished with quotations for a locomotive. The type of locomotive required is about 70 h.p. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Sacks.—The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt invites tenders for the supply and delivery at the port of Smyrna of 400,000 sacks. March 15. (D.O.T.)

COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended January 22 state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been firm. The net changes on the week are :—Sakellaridis : $4.10 up for January, $2.85 up for March, $2 up for May, $1.60 up for July, $0.45 up for November; Ashmouni : $1.10 up for February, $1 up for April, $1 up for June, $0.25 up for October.

The extraordinary firmness of the Sakel market must be attributed to speculative operations. The demand from abroad for this variety has this week again been poor, and all reports emphasise the fact that, owing to the high prices ruling, spinners are beginning to go off this variety. A large proportion of the world's spinners will, of course, continue on Sakel irrespective of price, and one must not read into these reports the idea that the demand for Sakel will fall off entirely; it does seem, however, that the tendency is to drop the use of Sakel if any cheaper variety can be used in its place. In the meantime the statistical position remains very strong. The demand on the spot continues to be good, although we think that the bulk of the purchases are destined for the covering of old sales made for shipment later on in the season; with the supply of tenderable grades so small exporters are apparently afraid of a squeeze, and accordingly prefer to cover their commitments now. The Interior movement is slackening considerably, and many factories are only working intermittently. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 168,658, against exports Crs. 169,627; the stocks stand at Crs. 1,972,735.

Spot.—Minet el Bassal has been fairly active this week, and sales amount to about 24,100 bales, of which we estimate 8,700 bales Sakellaridis, 11,800 bales Uppers, 3,000 bales Zagora, 200 bales Brown, 100 bales Pilion, and 300 bales White.

Sakellarides.—The demand for this growth is only moderate, and mainly for the better grades. There is a fairly good demand for Fully Good Fair to Good and Better, and for the Extra qualities high premiums have been paid. A certain amount of cotton about Fully Good Fair has changed hands, but the lower qualities have been neglected. It is now getting difficult to find really good staple cotton in Sakel. Spot premiums are without much change for Fully Good Fair, somewhat dearer for Good, and above and decidedly cheaper for the grades below Fully Good Fair.

Uppers and Zagora Lower Egypt have met with a good demand in all grades from Good Fair upwards. Below Good Fair there have not been many buyers. The grades above Good have met with a good demand at full prices. Holders have met the demand fairly well, and have offered their cotton freely. Spot parities are on the easy side for Fully Good Fair and below, but are rather dearer for the grades above Fully Good Fair. Fully Good and Extra are markedly dearer.

TEXTILES.

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Brown.—A moderate business has been done. Spot premiums are a little cheaper.

Pilion has met with only a small demand, and spot parities are rather easier.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are considerably cheaper.

Crop 1925.—Very little has yet been done in the way of preparations for the new crop, but it is probable that, in view of the high prices ruling, the acreage will be somewhat superior to that of last year. Zagora, in Lower Egypt, will probably show a decrease in acreage to the advantage of Sakel, the present difference in price of the latter over the former more than compensating the difference in yield, and it is this large difference which will influence growers in deciding to sow this variety.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Improved Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended January 28 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A much improved inquiry has been in evidence during the past week, and the daily spot sales have averaged very nearly 700 bales. The feature of the week has been the activity of several Alexandria shippers, who, taking advantage of the relative cheapness of our market as compared with their own, have bought here against c.i.f. contracts entered into earlier in the season. This undoubtedly has accounted for a large proportion of the business done, but at the same time the inquiry from the trade has also shown improvement. Again, we emphasise the fact that, in spite of the doleful prophesies emanating from Manchester, Sakel cotton is not being neglected; quite a brisk demand, in fact, has been experienced. Prices paid have ranged from 19.75d. to 35⅛d., and even higher prices have been bid for the best cotton. The bulk of the business was done in Strict Good Fair to Fully Good Fair at between 31.00d. and 32.00d. Interest in the lower qualities has again increased, and for the first time for months a revival of the demand for the re-cleaned, or machined cotton, has been noticed. We do not consider that this style of cotton will ever obtain a permanent hold in Lancashire, as it has been proved that spun alone it is unsuitable for our requirements. In times of emergency, as at present, when the price of the "straight" cotton is taxing the ingenuity of the spinner to the utmost, some spinners will use a small quantity here and there in an endeavour to cheapen their mixings. The amount which can be satisfactorily used in this way, however, is very small, and as soon as the price of the "straight" cotton drops to a marginal basis, the spinner at once gives it the cold shoulder. The spot selection of Sakel here shows no improvement, and prices are firm in spite of the recent decline in the Alexandria futures market.

A fair inquiry for Uppers has been felt, and prices still remain very irregular. Nominally, the "best" are worth between 22.00d. and 23.00d., but spinners who "go through the market" thoroughly can often get in at considerably under this price. The Pilion market is even more erratic than the Upper. Here and there one hears of some fancy prices having been paid for Extra Pilion. The market value of Good Pilion, of good staple, is probably about 25.50d. to-day. Brown and White cottons have been almost neglected. A small business has been done in Sudan, chiefly of the White variety. C.i.f. business has shown some slight improvement. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 23rd instant were returned as 9,220 bales. Estimated sales, 3,500 Egyptian and 650 Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper have been advanced 70 to 105 points. Sakellaridis is 130 to 140 points higher on the week. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 31.75d.

Egyptian Futures.—The past week has been principally noteworthy on account of a fresh outburst of "bullish" activity in the Alexandria market, where prices of the near Sakel positions have been forced up well over $60. This has naturally reacted on local values, and despite a somewhat disappointing trade demand, we show at to-night's close the substantial appreciation of 150 to 215 points for near, and 100 to 140 for distant positions on the week. Even at this early date in the season stocks of desirable cotton show evidence of a decided shortage, and even allowing for the maximum curtailment possible on the part of local spinners, the Continent, and particularly Russia, are proving such consistent buyers that they may counterbalance to a great extent the reduced business from this side. Manchester reports continue to show a dearth of business, especially in the fine counts, and probably some little time will elapse before manufacturers will be in the position to pay current rates. The tendency is to switch on to the coarser qualities wherever possible, but it is very doubtful whether Sakel cotton, which is the basis of both the Alexandria and Liverpool contracts, can be dispensed with to the extent necessary to influence values in view of the present strong statistical position of this growth. The Sudan crops, which are just about to be marketed, will provide a welcome addition to the local stock, and may cause a temporary check should values start a runaway tendency. Whilst the probability is for still higher prices, we consider the position too dangerous for those not in very close touch with the market. The new Sakel and Upper contracts still show narrow markets with restricted trading; the former has advanced 60 points and the latter 35 points on the week.

M. Vintila Bratianu, the Roumanian Finance Minister, has concluded his special mission to this country, and, accompanied by M. Romolo, Governor of the Bank of Roumania, left London on January 28 for Paris. After spending a few days there he returned to Bucharest to report to the Government the result of his conversations with English and French Ministers. At the station to take leave were the Roumanian Minister and the personnel of the Legation. During his stay in London M. Vintila Bratianu was received by Mr. Austen Chamberlain on January 24 and visited Mr. Churchill at the Treasury on January 27.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	283–286
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	294–297
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.82–24.84
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{32}$d-1s. 6d
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.65–92.70
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	920–930
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342–348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$d-1s. 6d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	900–915
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.79¼-4.79⅜
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	88.57–88.62
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161¼-161½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	115¼-115⅜
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	655-665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	41½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	339-341,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.90-25.10

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Company Meetings.

WESTMINSTER BANK.

Mr. Walter Leaf's Address.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Westminster Bank was held on January 29 at the head office, Lothbury, E.C. Mr. Walter Leaf (the Chairman) presided.

After referring with gratification to the completion of the first section of their new building operations—work worthy alike of the bank and of the City of London—the Chairman went on to allude to last year's great scheme of European reconstruction. The Dawes Report, he said, was the most important State document which had appeared since the Versailles Treaty. It showed a width of view, combined with a stern but reasonable and impartial sense of justice which distinguished it in various ways from the earlier document. After referring in detail to the main provisions of the scheme, and to the conditions it imposed upon Germany, he asked how they should stand when the two years of recuperation had given way to the unlimited years of reparation. How the enormous excess of exports, which they were forcing upon Germany, were to be absorbed by the world at large, without a ruinous competition with their own export trade, was a problem now exercising the best brains of Europe and America. An earnest attempt was being made to find the solution by common agreement between the nations of the world. In this connection he called attention to the excellent work of the International Chamber of Commerce, expressing the firm hope that a small committee of experts of the highest ranks appointed from that body would be able to submit to the next congress, to be held in Brussels in June next, the essential elements leading to a solution of the great problem of the receipt of Reparation payments.

The Dawes Report, he proceeded to say, had already begun to bear fruits, and, among these, the appreciation of the £ sterling in terms of the $. This had taken place in spite of obvious difficulties—large sterling loans to foreign countries, an increase in what was called the "adverse" balance of their foreign trade, a rise in their own index number of prices of about the same magnitude as that of the American index. If, notwithstanding all those adverse circumstances, sterling had continued to rise, they could only attribute it, he believed, to anxiety in the United States to employ on this side of the Atlantic that immense power of credit which had been given them by their accumulations of gold. America had grown tired of sterilising this great fund and was seeking some interest on it. Having set forth some comparative figures showing the amount of the foreign loans of America and of this country during the last year—England having lent an amount equal to only about one-half of that which America had loaned abroad—the Chairman expressed the belief that the rise in sterling had been based upon a more solid basis than mere exchange.

Proceeding, he said it did not, of course, follow that because they had arrived at parity they could at once remove the embargo on the export of gold. This, he added, was due to expire at the end of 1925, and one might, at least, confidently hope that it would not be renewed. Dealing with the question of the power to keep the gold when it came to them, the Chairman asked whether the time had not arrived for that conference of National Banks of Issue for the formulation of a scheme of co-operation in regard to gold reserves which was called for by the Geneva Conference?

Meanwhile, however, the re-establishment of the parity was of immense assistance to international trade. It would be welcomed particularly by their great Dominions in Australia and South Africa. It would diminish the cost of the great purchases of raw material which they had to make in the United States, notably of wheat and cotton. And the end had been gained without any of the disturbance to industry and production which had been so confidently predicted by the opponents, open or hidden, of what had been called "deflation." It was not without some modest sense of satisfaction that he recalled the controversies of last summer, and reflected that the recovery of sterling might be dated to the suggestion of a rise in the Bank Rate from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. The mere proposal of such a measure was sufficient to tighten their market rates here to such an extent that the rise was rendered unnecessary; and the desired end had been attained in a manner which had proved the most decisive refutation of the disasters so freely prophesied by the amateur economists and scaremongers of the public Press.

Dealing with the internal history of the bank, he called attention to the welcome growth of their advances to customers, which had increased during the year under review by 20 per cent., from just over 101 millions to 121 millions, the proportion to the current accounts and deposits having risen from 37 per cent., as at twelve months ago, to the more reasonable figure of 44 per cent.

Finally, he referred to the proposal made in some quarters for the nationalisation of the banks as a whole. If all the banks were nationalised, the measure would have to be applied to the foreign banks which at present operated in Great Britain, as well as to the overseas banks, colonial and foreign, which, while domiciled in Great Britain, carried on their operations abroad. Unless, therefore, the nationalisation of their own banks were combined with some measure for ensuring the preservation of foreign banking facilities for international trade, their own commerce and industry, notably that with the Colonies, would certainly suffer by the exclusion of foreign and overseas banks.

Assuming that it was decided that the advantages of nationalisation of banking were deemed to be so overwhelming that foreign competition was expelled at any cost, and the field reserved for their own home banking system, henceforth amalgamated into a single bank, the property of the State, who would be the sufferers? Not the shareholders. For the time had not come when they need regard bare spoliation as within the range of practical politics. He refused even to contemplate a state of things in which the proprietors of the banks would not be offered compensation for their property on some equitable basis—at all events, an assured income equal to that which they had been receiving in dividends, with some allowance for future expansion of profits. He anticipated, in short, that shareholders would receive justice, but not generosity. Would the taxpayer suffer? Would the State continue to make out of the banking business a net revenue equal to that which it was, by hypothesis, paying to the dispossessed shareholders? That was a question which he might leave to them to decide. Nor again could he say that the staffs would suffer. Very likely not, so far as the rank and file were concerned, though it was almost certain that the big prizes which served at present to stimulate ambition in the service would be largely curtailed. But there would be sufferers, and sufferers in their vital interests—namely, the trading community, alike industrial and commercial. An inevitable result of the nationalisation of the banks, as he saw it, would be a most serious reduction in the amount of accommodation given to borrowers. The mainspring of the help which banks gave to their customers—help which included a great deal beyond the mere

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lending of money—was inter-bank competition. He did not hesitate to say that this competition had become far more severe since the great bank amalgamations of a few years ago, and it was growing more severe every day. The talk of a "money trust" or, as no less a person than Mr. William Graham, ex-Financial Secretary to the Treasury, put it the other day, an "undoubted monopoly," could only raise a smile in those who saw in practice the zeal with which all the banks were attempting to attract new business by the offer of more and more favourable conditions.

Having shown the severe loss in other directions which would fall upon the commercial community under a nationalised banking system, he pointed out that the party in power from time to time would be placed in possession of an inestimable lever for political propaganda. However short the legitimate commerce of the country might come when credit was being dealt out, there was no likelihood that the political funds of the ruling party would ever find themselves depleted; and no new experiment in political enterprise which might happen to commend itself to a Parliamentary majority would ever be likely to languish for lack of money.

Alluding to the call for the nationalisation of the Bank of England, he showed that under such a scheme the currency would be managed solely by the Treasury under purely political influences, with only a secondary regard to the needs and opinions of the commerce and industry of the country. It was to be hoped that the far-reaching effects of such a measure might be thoroughly considered before it was placed upon the Statute Book.

The report was unanimously adopted and other formal business transacted.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.

Conditions in Egypt.

An Enviable Position.

The following is a translation of the report of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien, which was presented to the shareholders at the annual general meeting, held at Cairo on January 16:—

The Cotton Crop.

The cotton season of 1923 realised the anticipations which we formed last year. The stock at Alexandria at September 1, 1923, stood at 803,000 kantars. The arrivals of the year amounted to 6,531,457 kantars. The trade disposed thus of 7,334,457 kantars. At August 31 last the stock was reduced to the insignificant total of 260,000 kantars. The consumption has thus risen to 7,074,457 kantars, and the sales have been favoured by the price, which has varied between 30 and 50 talaris. The crop of 1924 is reported to be not less satisfactory. The area under cotton has risen from 1,588,100 feddans to 1,787,843. The arrivals at December 31 stood at 5,424,294 kantars, against 4,963,090 at the same period of the previous year. Prices have been very firm, round about 50 talaris for Sakellarides, the less fine cottons having, it is true, undergone a relative depreciation.

Egypt's Prosperity.

The succession of several prosperous years places Egypt at present in a most enviable financial position. Money is easy and abundant. The general well-being has shown itself in the towns by a marked improvement in living conditions favouring the rapid construction of dwelling houses. The State finances show reserve funds continually increasing, which stood at March 31, 1924, at £E17,800,000. It is to be hoped that these reserve funds, at present invested in State securities will be able to be utilised to permit the improvement and expansion of the agricultural production of the country. The ease with which financial settlements are negotiated will be made clear from an examination of the principal heads which characterise our mortgage business in the balance-sheet submitted to you.

The Balance Sheet.

The realisation of loans during the year 1924 have been £E1,170,562, £E444,600 below the amount of redemptions, which stand at £E1,615,162. The redemptions anticipated in cash have been £E304,866. The sales by auction have represented £E78,965. The stagnation of mortgage business is explained by the prolonged absence of transactions in real estate which generally accompany in Egypt the recourse to credit. Preoccupations of a political kind which have marked recent months have not been foreign to this situation.

The balance of the account for annual and half-yearly payments and interest due amounted at October 31, 1923, to £E1,326,762. Adding the maturities of the year, £E2,030,455, we have a total of £E3,357,217. At October 31, 1924, we had collected £E2,146,614. The amount of our arrears was thus reduced to £E1,210,603, an improvement of £E116,159 on the corresponding total of the previous year. The item of "Tiers Adjudicataires" was reduced during the year from £E112,563 to £E107,503. The real estate account due to expropriation, in regard to three properties, shows a negligible and temporary balance of £E12,903.

Investments.

As regards the composition of our portfolio, there is no change to record as regards English securities. The French Treasury paid us on April 1 last the first instalment of the loan of £E4,000,000 which was granted in 1919. The amount of that instalment was £E2,000,000. Our Egyptian securities show an increase of £E1,361,529. Our purchases have been £E254,600 nominal of Egyptian Priv. 3½ per cent. and £E955,820 nominal of Egyptian Unified 4 per cent. We have further continued the redemption of our bonds. The purchases effected during the year totalled 43,690 shares. At October 31, 1924, we had in hand 209,987 bonds representing an investment at an average rate of 5.70 per cent. These bonds have been acquired at a total price of £E2,364,013, at which they figure in the balance-sheet. This total is £E1,062,358 below the cost price of the bonds in our books without taking account of the redemption premiums.

The revenues of the portfolio have compensated for the decrease in the interest on mortgage loans, and have maintained the receipts of the profit and loss account at the level of the previous year. Various reductions in charges and expenses have, on the other hand, neutralised the increase of taxes to which we have been subject during the year on account of the double tithe established by the Finance Law of 1924. For the current year we have further to envisage the raising of the transfer fees. It is fortunate that the Commission des Valeurs Mobilières has made a new reduction in the taxable part of our bonds.

Profit and Loss Account.

The gross revenue of the year amounted to £E2,032,295. The corresponding expenditure was £E1,331,658. The amount of distributable profit stands thus at £E700,637, enabling the allocation of P.T. 140 to the ordinary shares and £E35 to the founders' shares, subject to deduction of French taxes, or P.T. 28 for the shares which circulate in France, or on which the coupon No. 50 has been paid in France. The founders' shares presented in France will be subject to the retention of the tax affecting foreign uncompounded shares.

If you agree to these proposals the position of the various reserve and provision accounts will stand as follows on November 1, 1924:—Statutory reserve, £E922,298.102, or 23,909,218.45 frs.; extraordinary reserve, £E970,773.067, or 25,165,860.45 frs.; provision for the reduction of the premium on bonds, £E574,416.580, or 14,890,902.92 frs.; provision and reserve for sundry contingencies, £E1,344,826.816, or 34,862,652.39 frs.; provision for dividend on shares, £E244,902.870, or 6,348,745.82 frs.; total, £E4,057,217.435,

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or 105,177,380.03 frs. ; loan account for drawings of the 1911 issue, £E144,057.045, or 3,734,466.49 frs. ; total, £E4,201,274.480, or 108,911,846.52 frs. ; for the account " Provision for the amortisation of bonds," £E1,062,489.039, or 27,543,461.80 frs. In conclusion, we wish to thank our staff for the zeal and devotion which they have carried out their work.

Resolutions of Meeting.

The general meeting (1) approved the accounts for the year ended October 31, 1924 ; (2) adopted the division of profits proposed by the board of directors, and decided in consequence on (a) the distribution for the year on the 400,000 shares of a dividend of P.T. 140 per share, £E560,000, or 14,517,174.34 frs. ; on the 2,000 founders' shares of P.T. 3,500 per share, £E70,000, or 1,814,646.79 frs. ; (b) the allocation to the statutory reserve of £E46,918.757, or 1,216,299.59 frs. ; to the board of directors, £E23,459.378, or 608,149.79 frs. ; (c) to carry forward for the account of the ordinary shares £E13,987.642, or 362,608.99 frs. ; for the account of the founders' shares, £E732.213, or 18,981.54 frs. ; total, £E715,097.990, or 18,537,861.04 frs., representing the amounts of the profits of the year and the sums brought forward from the previous year ; (3) decided that the dividend on the ordinary shares and on the founders' shares should be payable in Cairo in piastres, and in Paris and in London at the rates of exchange fixed by the board of directors, less French taxes, or P.T. 28 for the shares which circulate in France, or on which Coupon No. 50 has been paid in France ; (4) re-elected in accordance with Articles 15 and 36 of the statutes as directors for five years MM. Miriel, de Sérionne, and Lascaris ; (5) confirmed in accordance with Article 77 of the statutes the appointment as directors provisionally made by the board of MM. B. Hornsby and Mohamed Talaat Harb Bey ; (6) re-elected as auditor for one year M. E. Berthy ; (7) elected auditor for one year M. E. Papasian, previously chosen as provisional auditor for the year's audit, in accordance with Article 25 of the statutes. These resolutions were carried unanimously.

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, February 7). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Valdura for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Modasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 13) ; s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 14).

Ellerman " City " Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 12).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, February 14).

Johnston Line.—M.s. Sycamore for Galatz and Braila (the first steamer of the season for the Danube) (Liverpool, February 7). S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, February 6) ; s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout. (London, February 11).

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields at Gemsah for the week ended January 23 was 18 tons (previous week, 18 tons) ; and at Hurghada, 3,131 tons (3,265 tons).

The launch took place, on January 27, of the Federiko Glavis, a shelter-deck vessel of 3,400 tons (net), which is being built at the yard of Messrs. Workman, Clark and Co., Ltd., Belfast, for Yugoslav owners.

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that Steaua Romana well No. 14 Runcu came into production again on January 25, and was still in eruption on January 30. From January 25 to 28 the well produced 800 tons.

The British Vice-Consul at Skoplje reports that as from the end of December last the Greek Railway Administration have reduced by 40 per cent. the freight charges for all merchandise passing along the line Ghevgeli-Salonika in either direction.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 10 amounted to £E10,669, making the total from April 1 £E280,546. For the corresponding periods of the previous year the totals were £T11,043 and £E255,834.

Under the auspices of the Zionist Organisation, a carnival ball was held in Munich on January 26. The proceeds, which amount to approximately £500, will be transmitted to London for the assistance of Jewish emigrants to Palestine and the furthering of irrigation projects there.

The Nordenfjeldske Dampskibs Selskap has extended its service to the Mediterranean so as to include Greece and Asia Minor. The ports of call will be the Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Patras, and there will be a three-weekly service.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended January 3 amounted to Rs. 9,72,440, making the total from April 1 Rs. 3,76,50,054. For the previous year the respective totals were Rs. 9,35,845 and Rs. 3,84,99,169.

M. Tsouderos, the former Greek Finance Minister, leaves London this week for Paris, where it is understood that he will have conversations with the French Government regarding a difference over the 300,000,000 drachmæ advanced by the National Bank of Greece for the defrayment of expenses of the French army in East Macedonia during the war.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China announce that Mr. Henry Bateson, of Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co. (London), and Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co. (Calcutta), has been elected a director of the bank, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. M. G. Prophit.

A Bucharest message says that an agreement has been reached between the Swiss pre-War creditors and their Roumanian debtors. It is similar to that concluded with the British creditors. A party of Roumanian delegates are shortly proceeding to Rome to negotiate with the Italian pre-War creditors.

The tea industry in Transcaucasia has considerably developed, and great success has been achieved during the last three years (says the *Soviet Union Review*). Whereas private organisations had been growing tea before the war on 405 acres, the State is now exploiting 2,700 acres. The current year established a new record with regard to crop in comparison with the previous years (including pre-war years). The Georgian Gosplan (State Planning Commission) has framed an extensive programme of development for the next five years. In 1929, it is expected that the area of tea plantations will reach 16,200 acres.

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Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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NARKUNDA	16,000	Feb. 20	Feb. 27	Bombay & Karachi
§KHIVA†	9,000	Feb. 27	—	Colombo & Australia
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No. 718—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

The expulsion by the Turks of Mgr. Constantine VI. from Constantinople continues to be discussed with much fervour in a number of countries. A consensus of opinion inclines to the view that, whereas the Turks have a good case at law, it was not a tactful step on their part to expel the Patriarch so unceremoniously. Greece meets with no support for a sabre-rattling attitude, but can count upon the cordial sympathy of Christendom with her efforts to maintain the Œcumenical Patriarchate of the East. Unfortunately the Greek Government prepared the way for what has happened by ignoring the Turkish warning against the election of Mgr. Constantine Araboglou as Patriarch on the ground that he was an "exchangeable" Greek. In the face of that notification the only wise course to have adopted was to postpone the election and to endeavour to secure by friendly negotiation the exemption of the personnel of the Patriarchate from compulsory exchange. If the Greeks had done this, they would have been supported by all the signatories of the Lausanne Treaty, and it is most unlikely that Turkey would have thought it politic to withstand such a wide appeal. As things are, Greece preferred to ignore the Turkish warning, and Mgr. Constantine was elected. When once Turkey has taken action that is admittedly within her rights, however harsh or unwise it may be, it is a difficult matter for the Powers to press for a reversal of the decree of expulsion. The limit of the consolation offered Greece now is that Mgr. Constantine VI. should be regarded as deposed, and that Turkish good will for a successor and for the future exemption of the Patriarchate from the scope of the exchange should be secured.

The Turkish Case.

While on all sides the Turkish action is deprecated, there has been, as far as can be seen, no attempt in any quarter to answer the Turkish contention. Fethi Bey, the Prime Minister, has every shade of opinion in the country behind him in declaring that Turkey could not countenance the Greek effort to go back on the scheme for compulsory exchange by sheltering an "exchangeable" in the Patriarchate. He repudiated the charge that his Government were attempting to attack the office of the Patriarchate. It must be admitted that those who are trying to make out that "the beacon light of Christianity in the Near East" has deliberately been extinguished by the Turks, elect to ignore the connection between Mgr. Constantine's expulsion and the controversy over the exchange of populations. Action more unprovoked than this particular move will have to be taken by the Turks before the Patriarchate as an institution is in danger, and it is to be hoped that if the subject is debated in the House of Lords on the motion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, all the facts of the case will be taken into consideration by the speakers. We may regret that at Lausanne no attempt was made to regulate the position of the Patriarchate. Turkey had proposed that it should be removed entirely from Turkish territory, but had withdrawn the demand on the understanding that the Patriarch should be shorn of his temporal power. The suggestion that the members should be exempted from exchange does not appear to have been made at any time. The omission was unfortunate, but it might still have been rectified if the Turkish warning against the election of Mgr. Constantine Araboglou had been met in the right spirit.

The Yugoslav Elections.

After a somewhat stormy electoral campaign, election day in Yugoslavia passed almost without incident, the exception being in one town in Croatia, where three deaths are reported. Wise counsels prevailed at the last in Belgrade, and there was no interference with the movements of the Croat electorate. The Radicals head the poll with 141 seats, as compared with 107 in the last Parliament. M. Pribitchevitch returns with a following of 22 Independent Democrats, and thus M. Pashitch is able to count upon 163 votes in the new Skupshtina of 315 deputies, or a majority of eleven. The Opposition *bloc* includes the Croat Peasant Party, 68 seats; Democrats, under M. Davidovitch, 39; Slovene Clericals, under M. Koroshets, 19; Bosnian Moslems, under Dr. Spaho, 12. The bal-

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ance of the 152 seats is divided among Montenegrin Federalists, 3; German Party, 5; Serbian Agrarian, 4; Slovene Agrarian and Albanian Moslem, 1 each. Whether M. Pashitch's majority of eleven will prove sufficient for the chances and changes of a Parliamentary session must depend on the powers of persuasion which the veteran Prime Minister can bring to bear on the various small groups. The result of the elections will confirm the opinion of those who imagined that this preliminary trial of strength would have to be followed by another election in the autumn, by which time M. Pashitch will have learnt the measure of success that he is likely to have in attracting some of the more or less isolated politicians to his standard. The policy of centralisation holds its own for the present; but under the conditions regulating the elections it cannot claim any very pronounced mandate. In any case, the Government is to be congratulated on the freedom with which the elections appear to have been conducted.

Turkey and Mosul.

There is some ground for the belief that the present Turkish Government does not wish to perpetuate the acute form of xenophobia which has served Turkey as a foreign policy during the last two or three years; but every now and then some official act suggests that the spirit is not entirely dead or that the control on subordinates leaves something to be desired. A case in point would seem to be the despatch with the Turkish assessor to the League of Nations' Commission for the settlement of the Iraq frontier of two Turks who at one time became outlaws as the result of intriguing against the Iraq Government in Mosul. According to the Turkish version the men are "good Turkish patriots, who worked in the interest of retaining Mosul for the Mother Country, just as British subjects worked for the retention of Mosul in the British Mandate." That may be; but the fact remains that, as far as Mosul to-day is concerned, the two men fell foul of the authorities and evaded arrest only by making good their escape. Their patriotism is not a subject of challenge, but the action of the Turkish Government in selecting two such men to accompany the Commission to Mosul. Not only is their presence an affront to Great Britain, which may quite well be a matter of indifference to Turkey, but it is also calculated to injure the Turkish case in the eyes of the Commission appointed to decide the Mosul question. The men have proved a source of embarrassment to the Commission, which will naturally resent being used as an instrument of Turkish propaganda.

Accident or Design.

If the Turkish Government imagined that it was scoring a point by sending as "experts" men who in their unofficial capacity would have been arrested on showing themselves in Iraq, or if it merely ignored the past history of the men, it shows how far the authorities at Angora have yet to travel before they can take their place with any degree of confidence as equals with Western Governments. Both Fethi Bey and the Foreign Minister will have to defend in public the official responsible for the *gaucherie*, but there is nothing in the record of either to lead one to suppose that they would have sanctioned the appointment if the facts had been known to them. Thus an insight is gained into present conditions in Turkey. The desire to live up to Western standards exists; but the number of people capable of interpreting those standards is limited, and while there is a conscious endeavour to improve the standard of government and to practise the reciprocity and good faith which form the basis of international relations among modern civilised States, every now and then comes a throwback to more primitive methods—as a result perhaps of extremist action—and the world has the experience of the Mosul incident or the sudden expulsion of the Patriarchate. It is not, however, a case of the Ethiopian never changing his skin, but of the evolution of a State being a slow and laborious process. Fortunately in Great Britain the belief is widely held that Turkey, in spite of frequent lapses, can yet make good.

The Egyptian Elections.

A certain piquancy has been lent to the primary elections in Egypt by the failure of Zaghloul Pasha to secure election as an elector-delegate for a Cairo division. There have been other notable "casualties" in the Zaghloulist ranks; but it is recognised that they do not offer a criterion as to how the elections will ultimately go. In the provinces, indeed, the Zaghloulists claim to have gained sweeping victories. The best news from Egypt, however, is that the police appear at last to have been successful in drawing their net round those directly responsible for the murder of Sir Lee Stack. The dramatic arrest of two students in the train, while trying to escape to the Sollum district, appears to have provided the authorities with useful information, even if the two men should not prove to belong to the band that actually killed the Sirdar, and it has been followed with many fresh arrests. More than three months have elapsed since the murder, and it was feared that, owing to the difficulties encountered by the police in their investigations, the criminals would never be discovered.

INDIA.

Railways in Politics.

The determination of the extremist opposition at Delhi to interfere in the details of railway management promises to create a very interesting constitutional situation. When the Government decided on a large extension of State management, it relied on the good sense of the Assembly to accept the convention, which has grown up in one or two countries, that members of the Legislature should not take up matters of administration, such as the personal grievances of individual employees. Good sense, however, is not very conspicuous just now on the Opposition benches in the Assembly: the members revel in personal questions, and some of them, at least, explicitly refuse to regard the suggested convention as desirable. A convention which is not accepted has, of course, no existence, and for the present the majority of the Assembly stands committed to a course which, according to the Government spokesmen, will ruin the whole administration of the railways. That statement is, perhaps, a rhetorical exaggeration, but there is no doubt that the difficulties of the Railway Commissioner will be very much increased, while ordinary people, who want efficient management, will soon begin to sigh for the good old days of the private companies, which were reviled while they existed, but were better than the new alternative.

The Politicians' Nemesis.

To our mind it is very doubtful whether the Government was justified in expecting Indian politicians to exercise so much self-restraint. Con-

INDEX TO VOLUME XXVI.

The Index to Volume XXVI. of "The Near East" (July 3, 1924—December 25, 1924) is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, "The Near East," 167, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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ventions are plants of slow growth, and by no means easy to acclimatise; but even if the politicians should ultimately agree to accept this particular convention, there are still the constituencies to be reckoned with. Practically every family in India has its stock of personal grievances, and from time immemorial the humblest slave has cherished the hope of laying down his burden at the foot of the throne. In the new régime the dissatisfied booking-clerk, or the dismissed foreman, will undoubtedly expect the member for his constituency to take the matter up, and failure to do so will mean loss of votes. Members will probably soon get thoroughly sick of the game in which they have rashly taken a hand, but their stakes will still be in the pool, and it is quite possible that in the end they will be forced to accept a reversion to company management as the only escape from an intolerable position. In any case, they will have the advantage of one of those object-lessons in the practical working of democracy which the country needs so much.

"Mr. Speaker."

Another, and perhaps a more serious, difficulty of the same kind may arise in connection with the choice of Presidents of the various legislatures. The first Presidents were nominated, but their successors are now being elected, and the future working of these institutions will depend very largely on the minority's attitude towards the choice of the majority. In England "Mr. Speaker" steps out of politics when he steps into the chair, and to question his impartiality is to commit political suicide. In the Punjab we see from the last mail that the choice of President was being discussed strictly on religious lines, and since almost the only point on which Hindus and Moslems are agreed is their firm conviction of the bias of their opponents, it is asking a great deal of inexpert politicians to expect that the elected President will be at once accepted as impartial. In this matter also the probabilities are that India will have to learn by experience, perhaps of an unpleasant nature. We notice that Hindus in Lahore are described as apprehensive of the power of a Moslem Minister "with his creature in the chair," and the phrase may serve as a measure of the distance which still separates the province from its political goal.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

St. Paul's Appals and Appeals.

We are being played with; and we do not like it. No sooner are our deepest feelings moved (and moved to the depths of our pockets) by the threat that the dome of St. Paul's may soon fall down, than we are simultaneously told that there is no need for alarm, and that the whole structure must, within a period of twelve years, be moved, at a cost of £2,000,000. It is all too puzzling: the normal man does not know where he is.

One thing is clear: someone has blundered. Whether it is the architectural experts, or the Cathedral authorities, or the newspapers, it is difficult to say; but it is certain that no appeal for so national an institution as St. Paul's has so appalled the people. The procedure of almost everybody connected with the scare has been most baffling and bewildering, and one will not feel really satisfied until an independent body of practical experts appointed by the Government (a great chance, one would think, for Mr. Baldwin's Fine Art Commission) pronounce a final verdict.

Tariffs.

Party journals spread themselves in quite the pre-War style last week when the Government's new Tariff policy was announced, and may even have convinced their readers that the writers of the articles *pro* and *con* the Government really believed either in Protection or in Free Trade. As a matter of fact, of course, the whole pother was the veriest eye-wash. The Government is in no sense warping the Safeguarding of Industries Act to be a means of wholesale Protection. Any trade which wishes to be protected must first survive a Board of Trade inquiry, and then it must get a special Act of Parliament of its own. Obviously, each separate tariff will be minutely discussed by the House of Commons, which can dispose of any particular case that it dislikes.

Meat Rings.

For the benefit of those who became disheartened at the melancholy and monotonous way in which the magnates before the Royal Commission which is dealing with the price of meat denied that their calling was in any sense a lucrative one, and who consequently desisted from reading what they considered useless evidence, it ought to be recorded that, one fine and dazzling day last week, there was to be found a business man who admitted that he was in business for and at a profit. Thus to have extracted an admission that all was not wholly ill in the meat world (from the magnates' point of view) was almost a triumph for the Commission, who had hitherto had to listen to little but the most impossible tales of poverty-stricken and anxious cold-storage merchants.

It is to be hoped that the Commission's joy over the one man who pleaded as he ought to have pleaded will not too violently upset the dismay with which they heard the ninety and nine others.

Out of all this talk has so far come one concrete suggestion: that the State should control the meat supply. The very proposal has tempestuously thrown a large section of the non-thinking on to the meat capitalists' side; and, of course, it will never be realised in this country.

The Menace of Oil.

There are few stories more exciting than that of the discovery, and of the rivalry experienced in the obtaining, of oil as one of the most potent factors in human existence; but it is, quite apart from the baneful influence it exerts upon national politics, far from being an unmixed good. From all

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parts of the world evidence is now accumulating upon the subject of coast pollution, an evil which is directly attributable to oil. The discharge of oil from ships is indeed capable of very serious harm, for, although in our own island complaints are chiefly made against it on æsthetic or sentimental grounds—the spoiling of sea-birds' wings or of bathing costumes, and so on—there is abundant proof that the smaller forms of marine life, including fish's eggs, are killed even by a thin film of oil.

How to rid ourselves of this obvious danger to the larger fish is admittedly a problem. The Liverpool shipping interests have just suggested the prohibition of oily ballast water within 150 miles of the nearest coast. But, of course, all maritime nations would have to adopt the practice.

A Boxing Exhibition.

Art exhibitions are not usually a source of much entertainment, for the æsthetic and the risible faculties are in this country treated as foreigners. But the new galleries which have been opened in King Street, Covent Garden, called the Sporting Galleries, hit a very human note when they organised an exhibition, consisting of paintings, prints, and relics connected with the history of Boxing. Here you may see all the old champions of England—Sayers, Gribb, Belcher, and the rest; may learn that Byron regularly engaged a professional pugilist to check his corpulency; may admire a plaster arm of Sayers; or may laugh at H. M. Bateman's portrayal of boxing nerves. There are hundreds of other things, too, which will stir the older generation to memories that there were never fighters like those of their time, and the younger fry to wonderment at the endurance and hardness of the older masters. Altogether, it is a stimulating show, well worth the visiting by all sportsmen.

The Origin of Man.

I am no more an anthropologist than are the writers in the popular papers upon the recent find by Professor Dart of some skull in Bechuanaland. The amount of tosh—it is nothing else—that some folk will swallow about "the missing link" is perfectly extraordinary, although, to be sure, it is only another manifestation of that extreme and almost superstitious reverence of Science which is our modern substitute for religion.

A moment's reflection will convince anyone that no one skull can possibly provide "the missing link." What is really much more interesting than this question of the origin of man, which, in essence an academic one, has probably been already exploited for all it is worth, is the problem of which country in the world was the first home of man? Hitherto, I believe, Mesopotamia, Central Asia, and Egypt have vied with Java for this distinction; now it appears to be South Africa. In time, no doubt, some other place will be discovered.

The Warm South.

It is meet on such spring days as these to enjoy such an exhibition of sunny, lightful pictures as those which Mr. Richard Jack has painted of places like the Midi of France, Albi, Cahors, and the South of England, and which are being shown in the Fine Art Society's Galleries, New Bond Street. True, there is more urbanity than subtlety in his work, but it is very good to look upon the hot bridges of Cahors, or to see the "Cutty Sark" in Fowey Harbour and the yachts in Salcombe. A very pleasant, if not a great show.

Odilon Redon.

In the exhibition of Odilon Redon's etchings and pastels at the Leicester Galleries, on the other hand, there is very definitely the element of greatness. Redon, who died in 1916, was a master of the spiritually fantastic, a sort of combination of the mediæval mystic, of Blake, and of Poe. His lithographs are quite unusually fascinating and deep. And the colour in his pastels reminds one of the intensity which, so far as I know, is a secret mainly in the keeping of the Orientals (though our own Brangwyn has it in some degree), particularly of the Russians and the Armenians. His is primarily a show for artists and poets and mystics.

Alter Ego.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

THE RIF PROBLEM.

The Near and Middle East Association have submitted the following memorial to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

(1) The Committee of the Near and Middle East Association venture to express their complete satisfaction with your recent statement informing the members of the House of Commons that his Majesty's Government are using their influence to localise so far as possible any questions which may arise owing to the present situation in what is known as Spanish Morocco.

(2) The Committee are extremely glad to learn that his Majesty's Government have no intention of taking action, either singly or conjointly with other European Powers, to deprive the people of the Rif of the independence they have so gallantly maintained for themselves after a long and arduous struggle; especially so as the Committee feel sure that any such action would create both misapprehension and bitter resentment among our Muslim fellow-subjects.

(3) The Committee venture to suggest that a possible solution of this difficult problem, and one that might prove satisfactory to both Spaniards and Rifi, and to the interested Powers, might be the creation of an independent, autonomous Rifi State recognising a nominal suzerainty on the part of Spain.

The death was reported from Peshawar on February 6 of the Nawab of Dir.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught were escorted up the Khyber Pass on February 6 by the Chief Commissioner and visited Landi Kotal.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, arrived at Akyab on February 8 by air from Rangoon, on his return journey to Calcutta.

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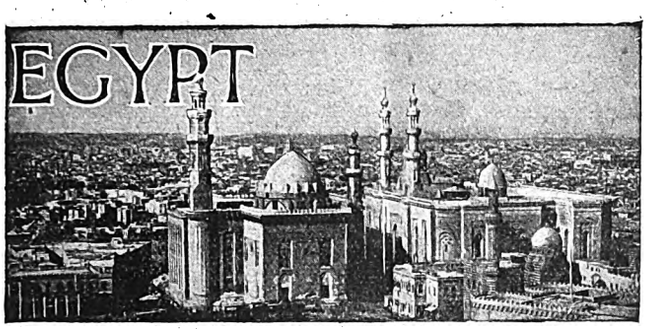
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, January 31.

The Nile Waters.

The events of the week have been the arrangement with regard to the "water-clause" in the ultimatum of November last, and the Egyptian Government's protest at the creation of the Sudan Defence Force. The settlement with regard to the much-criticised revocation of the limit placed on the irrigation of the Gezira contained in the ultimatum had to a great extent already been discounted. It was known that a new Commission was to be set up to re-examine this much-discussed question, though the actual composition of the Commission was unknown. Generally speaking, Great Britain's action in this matter has been approved, though the Egyptian Press has been at some pains to criticise the acquiescence of the Egyptian Government in the submission of this question to a mixed commission, their contention being that the Nile belongs to Egypt and Egypt alone should have a say in the allocation of its water. There is, indeed, every indication that when the Commission reports, pressure will once again be brought to bear on the Government to reject its recommendations, and it will be interesting to see whether this time the Egyptian authorities will have the courage to place the economic needs of the country before considerations of political expediency.

The Sudan Defence Force.

Although the Cabinet must have known full well that nothing it might say would alter the British decision with regard to the creation of the Sudan Defence Force, it could not, for political reasons, ignore the demand for action addressed to it by the vernacular Press of every colour, and in presenting its protest to the Residency it followed the only course open to it in the circumstances. The Egyptian Government is naturally free to reserve its rights and declare that the present step cannot prejudice the eventual settlement regarding the future status of the Sudan; but, as all instructed Egyptians realise, the direct cause of the decision to separate the Sudan militarily from Egypt has been the unfortunate experience of the past year resulting from the Egyptian Government's own foolish and disloyal policy, and, no matter what settlement future negotiations may produce, there is no hope that, as regards the military force defending the Sudan, it will provide any return to the arrangement which held prior to the ultimatum of November 30, 1924.

Egyptian circles have not been sparing in their criticisms of the announcement, and the manner in which it was made. They complain that it omitted all reference to King Fuad, from whom the Governor-General holds his appointment; that the Egyptian National Anthem was not played, as had been customary on all official ceremonies in the Sudan; that the Governor-General called on the Sudanese to forget the past as if the 1899 Convention no longer existed; and, finally, that Sir Geoffrey Archer wore a plumed helmet and British Colonial uniform instead of a tarbush and Egyptian military uniform.

The last-named criticism is deserving of comment because it reveals a characteristic disregard of facts. In making it, Egyptians—and I have heard this criticism voiced in circles usually well-informed—quite overlook the fact that Sir Geoffrey Archer was appointed Governor-General only. If his predecessors wore a tarbush, it was in virtue of their rank of Sirdar, which they then combined with the Governor-Generalship of the Sudan. The Royal decree by which Sir Geoffrey was appointed officially separated the two posts, and Sir Geoffrey, in appearing in the garb which is now criticised, presented himself to the people of the Sudan as the civilian head of the Sudan Government, which is now a purely civil administration. It may be added that a special uniform, with helmet or cap, was prescribed over fifteen years ago for the senior members of the Sudan Government, and that none of them have ever worn a tarbush unless in virtue of their military rank in the Egyptian Army.

The Grand Cadi of Egypt.

The dastardly outrage on the Grand Cadi, Sheikh Mohamed Mustapha El Maraghi, created considerable sensation in Cairo. His Eminence had an almost miraculous escape, for the sulphuric acid completely covered his chest and left arm and only just missed his face. A tribute to the high esteem in which Sheikh El Maraghi is held was afforded by the ceaseless stream of callers at his house, who hailed from every class and every section of the community, irrespective of party, religion, or nationality. There is good reason to believe that the crime was instigated by one of the parties in a very important inheritance case which the Grand Cadi recently judged, and it is now observed as more than a coincidence that something of an untoward nature has happened to several of those who have been called upon to deal with this case in its many phases.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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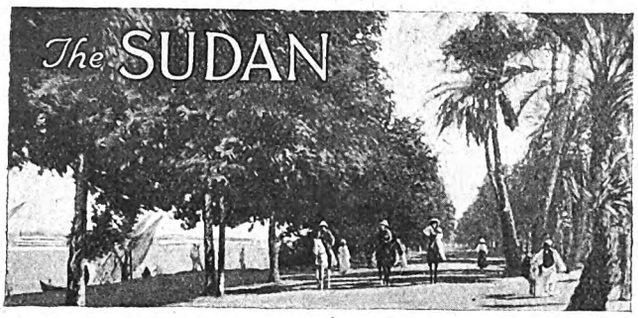

Khartoum, January 21.

Sudan Defence Force.

On the occasion of the Garden Party held at the Palace on King's Day, January 17, the thirteenth anniversary of the visit of Their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary to the Sudan, the Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Geoffrey Archer, issued a Proclamation calling into being the Sudan Defence Force.

It was a most opportune moment to deliver such a speech, as among the many hundreds invited to the garden party were many dignitaries, religious leaders, sheikhs, and notables from all over the Northern Sudan, who had been invited to Khartoum, according to custom, to take part in the King's Day celebrations.

The speech of the Governor-General was as follows— :

"I, Geoffrey Francis Archer, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor-General of the Sudan, in exercise of the supreme Military and Civil Command vested in me under the terms of my appointment, do hereby proclaim as follows :— That whereas, in view of the withdrawal of Egyptian troops from the Sudan, it has become necessary to constitute a Sudan Force. And whereas, it is desirable to remove any misapprehension as to their position which may exist in the minds of officers, natives of the Sudan, who have served in the Egyptian Army, and are now able to transfer to the Sudan Force,

"Now, therefore, I proclaim as follows :—

"1. The new force to be created as aforesaid shall be styled the Sudan Defence Force, and shall owe allegiance to the Governor-General of the Sudan.

"2. The Governor-General shall appoint and dismiss all officers, and all commissions shall be issued in his name.

"3. The Egyptian Government being no longer able to employ the officers of the Egyptian Army who are natives of the Sudan, all such officers whom I consider worthy will be accepted for service in the Sudan Defence Force on the terms governing the issue of commissions therein, which are this day being communicated to such officers.

"4. On the issue of new commissions the Sudan Government will assume responsibility for the pay, pensions, and gratuities to which the said officers are at present entitled under their conditions of service in the Egyptian Army."

His Excellency then addressed the assembled company as follows :—

"Now to you, officers and notables of the Sudan, I have certain things I wish to say. It is necessary for me to be brief, as there are many sheikhs here who have journeyed far to see me and in order to attend this ceremony, which, as you know, is held in honour and in proud recollection of the visit to this country of His Majesty King George.

"5. I address my words first to you, officers of the Army. This day a force has been created to preserve the authority of your Governor-General and to maintain the internal peace and security of your country—the Sudan.

"It is incumbent on every man to serve his country to the best of his ability and in the capacity for which he is best fitted. In this force it is my wish and intention to confirm the appointment of all officers in whom I can place my trust and reliance. This trust I give you freely. In return I expect your loyalty, your courage, and your devotion. With but few exceptions I offer commissions in the new Sudan Defence Force to all serving officers.

"You officers have had a clear indication that the Egyptian Government is unable to offer you employment. In the Sudan Defence Force you are guaranteed, as has been made plain to you in my proclamation, all your existing rights as regards pay, pensions, and gratuities in respect of past service. Your oath of allegiance to the Governor-General of the Sudan, as well as the form of the commissions which I intend to bestow upon you, will be fully explained by your Commanding Officers. Thereafter, without delay, I will convene parades at all military centres in order to hand to you personally your new commissions as officers of the Sudan Defence Force.

"Finally, I pray Almighty God that the force may prosper in peace and war, that it may be worthy of the high confidence reposed in it, and that, by mutual understanding and respect between British and native officers, the bonds of comradeship in arms among all ranks may be firmly cemented.

"To you, dignitaries, sheikhs, and notables, on this happy occasion of our first meeting I offer salutations and greetings.

"I feel it especially appropriate that I should welcome you here for the first time on King's Day, and I am impressed as I look round to observe how many among you wear the personal decoration of His Majesty King George. It recalls to my mind that not long ago the Sudan Delegation, headed by Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani, was accorded an audience by His Majesty in London.

"To pass to the unfortunate political disturbances of recent months, I can only tell you that it was with deep regret and indignation that I heard of the cowardly assassination of your late Governor-General, Sir Lee Stack, in the streets of Cairo, and I shared in your profound grief at the loss of a man so well loved by you all, who had spent the best years of his life in the service of your country. I am happy to know that you, the religious and tribal leaders, together with your responsible people, remained throughout these disturbances true, loyal, and steadfast to the confidence reposed in you, thus proving the strength of the ties and the good rela-

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tionships existing between the people of the Sudan and the British Administration. And it is only a matter of regret to me, as I know it is to you, that there should have been irresponsible persons who have been misled by extravagant ideas which have brought them within the scope of the law.

"I express to you the earnest hope that my declaration to-day may be the signal for the opening of a new era, in which all will co-operate to obliterate the foolish errors and misjudgments of the past. In the confident belief that this will be the case, I propose to give directions that no persons, other than those already in custody, will be arrested or charted in connection with the recent disturbances. Moreover, in the case of some of those already convicted, I hope at a later date, with the passing of the political agitation, it may be possible to exercise the prerogative of mercy vested in me. On the conclusions of these trials I shall certainly review most carefully the sentence of each individual. I make this declaration the more gladly in the assurance that it is a course which would have commended itself to my distinguished predecessor, Sir Lee Stack, had he lived, for he was ever ready to temper justice with mercy.

"I wish to end now on the question of personal relations. It has been my custom elsewhere, and it is my desire here, to establish close personal relations with the tribal and religious leaders and with the native peoples for whose welfare and prosperity I am directly responsible. To establish such relations, I propose to travel as soon as possible, and as widely as possible, throughout the Sudan, in order that I may study on the spot the problems and the conditions as they exist, and in order that I may extend my acquaintanceship with you, the leaders, which to-day has been so happily begun."

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 4.

Greece and Bulgaria.

The outstanding question of the day is the attitude of Greece towards the Minority Protocol which she and Bulgaria concluded with the League of Nations in Geneva last September. Last week the Greek Parliament discussed this Protocol, and it was obvious that it had no chance of being approved. The Prime Minister, M. Michalakopoulos, in a long speech made references to the alleged ill-treatment of Greek subjects in Bulgaria, the prompt action of the Greek Government in punishing those guilty of the murder of Bulgarians at Tarlis, the need for Greece to obtain a foreign loan and the consequent necessity of gaining the sympathy of the civilised world, and many other matters. What all these things have to do with the rejection of the Protocol is not understood here, and, indeed, it is doubtful whether they are understood even in Greece.

If the truth be told, none of the flimsy excuses which have appeared in the Press are the real reason for Greece's refusal to adhere to the Geneva Protocol. The real cause is that external interests have constrained her to refuse ratification to an international document. These external reasons are perfectly plain, and are not wholly unconnected with Greece's hold on Salonika and the surrounding country.

It is, of course, deplorable that such a situation should have arisen, but it must be insisted on that it is no concern of Bulgaria if Greece fails to ratify the Protocol. It is the affair of the League of Nations, and the League of Nations alone. This international institution has had many bigger problems to deal with since its inception, but the question which it will probably be called on to deal with during the month of March is one of the most delicate it has ever had. For the League of Nations is responsible for the treatment of Minorities. But, quite naturally, States belonging to the League of Nations who have foreign Minorities residing within their frontiers are reluctant to see the League intervene. They say that they cannot brook any interference in internal matters, and so on. Up to date, the League has more or less surmounted Minority difficulties in the Balkans through the offices of the competent Mixed Græco-Bulgarian Commission. Now Minorities are entering into a new and even more important phase, and it may be necessary for the League to devote greater attention to this question than it has hitherto done.

The Agrarian Conference.

Recently the permanent Committee of the Agrarian Union held a meeting to consider the election of new chiefs. As a result, M. Zanko Bakaloff, former Minister of Public Works, and M. Yaneff, ex-Minister of Finance, were elected to the Committee which runs the party. M. Thomoff, another ex-Minister who was formerly on this Committee, was not re-elected.

These elections are considered to have furnished another proof that the Agrarians are still friendly with the Communists, and that their assertion that they have nothing in common with the latter cannot be believed. For although MM. Bakaloff and Yaneff are not extremists, it is thought they will be tools in the hands of others, while the moderate element, which was represented by M. Thomoff, has now disappeared. In any case, the Agrarian Party continue to be disorganised, and until a new leader is found, there does not seem very much chance of the party playing an important rôle.

The King's Birthday.

On Friday, January 30, King Boris celebrated his thirty-first birthday. A service was held in the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, but, according to custom, His Majesty was absent from Sofia, as he invariably makes a pilgrimage to his mother's grave at Philippopolis, where she died on January 31, 1899.

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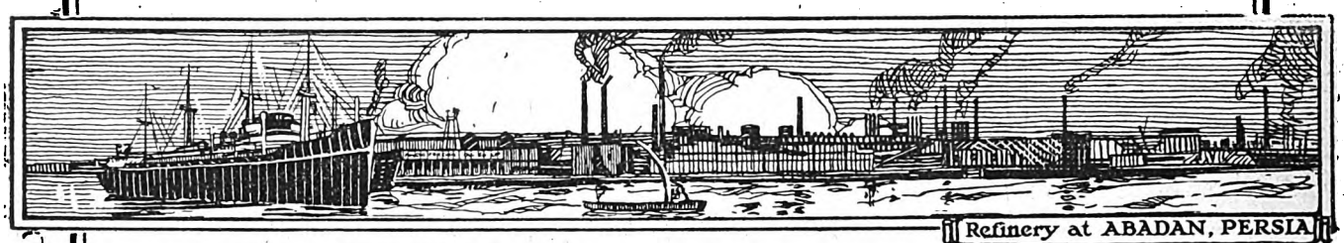

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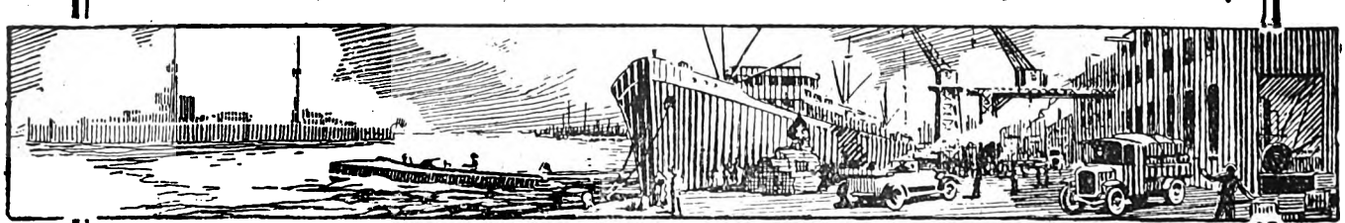

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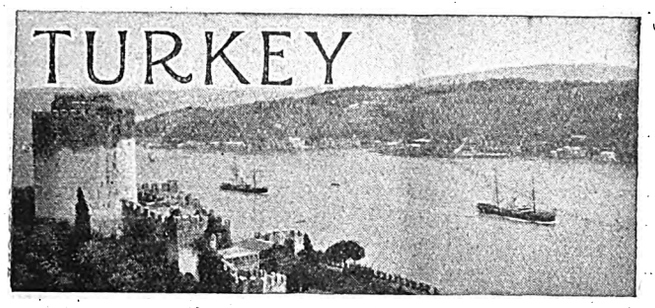

Constantinople, February 3.

The Patriarchate.

By far the most important event here during the last week has been the expulsion of the Œcumenical Patriarch, Mgr. Constantine Araboglou. The presentation of the *fait accompli* left the numerous speculators on the situation completely mystified, especially in view of the expeditious manner in which the Turkish Government's instructions were issued and carried out. The decision of the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Populations left the question still in suspense as far as the exchangeability of the Patriarch was concerned. It was established that as an ordinary individual he was subject to the exchange, but in his quality as Patriarch the Commission declared themselves incompetent to pronounce a decision regarding his exchangeability. This final decision of the Commission was evidently to many ambiguous, as the local Greek Press were fully convinced that the points were in Greece's favour; whilst, on the other hand, Turkey left no doubt as to her interpretation. No matter to what extent one may stretch imagination, it is impossible, after careful reading of the Commission's *communiqué*, to conclude otherwise than that the Commission washed its hands of the whole question. A rider was also added to the decision that the Commission would issue no exchange passport to Mgr. Constantine. It was, therefore, with great surprise that the news of the Patriarch's expulsion was received at 10 o'clock on Friday morning. Angora had telegraphed instructions during the night, and at about 6 o'clock on Friday morning the Assistant Director of the Police, together with four policemen, presented themselves at the Phanar, and on awaking him gave the Patriarch short time to complete preparations for his departure. He was escorted by the police to the Sirkeji Station and left at 8.45 a.m. by the *conventionnel*.

The whole situation at present is one of suspense; the Turkish reply to the Greek protest is awaited. The President of the Republic returned to Angora yesterday, and is reported to have proceeded directly to an examination of the draft reply. The Press believes that the terms of this reply will be that Turkey is unable to see why any reference to the League of Nations should be made, as the question is merely one of internal interest, and, further, that no intervention in the question by any Power will be admitted. Turkey appears to be firmly resolved to follow her own course in this question, and even though complications are possible the seriousness of which it is impossible to foresee, it is to be hoped that once again a settlement may be found through diplomatic channels. It appears probable that the local Greek Press might be made to suffer for the publication of articles during the last few days which are considered as hostile. The authorities have ordered a careful analysis of every publication, and in case of offence stringent measures will be taken.

Another Cabinet Crisis?

Recent events at Angora point to the possibility of another Cabinet crisis. Members of the Popular Party, who are also firm supporters of Ismet Pasha, are reported to have taken offence at certain declarations made by Fethi Bey regarding the granting of various travelling allowances to deputies, which were authorised under the previous Cabinet. The above members consider the declarations of the President of the Council as hostile to Ismet Pasha's Cabinet, and uneasiness and dissatisfaction amongst the Popular Party are reported to be very evident at Angora. The possibility of any trouble in the Cabinet at the moment, when the external situation is uncertain, is looked upon with concern and disapproval, and the somewhat unexpected return to Angora of Mustapha Kemal Pasha is thought to be in order to again smooth over present difficulties.

PERSIA.

Teheran, January 7.

Sardar Sepah's Return.

The Prime Minister returned to the capital last Thursday after his visit to the South to direct personally, as Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief, military operations against the defiant Sheikh of Mohammerah, and to conduct, as Prime Minister, negotiations and come to terms with him, after having received his complete submission, which Sardar Sepah made a *sine qua non*. Most elaborate preparations had been made during the previous week to make the welcome a fitting one for Persia's "strong man" who had restored peace in the South, and once more proved his ability to cope with any internal troubles by the help of the army which he has been instrumental in creating, and by his own masterful character. More than twenty triumphal arches had been erected along the line of route from the Shah Abdul Azim Gate, through which Sardar Sepah entered the town, to his house near the Bagh-i-Shah Gate, a distance of nearly three miles, and the Artillery Square was particularly brilliantly decorated, no less than four arches being erected here alone. Great crowds assembled in the Square long before the time fixed for the Prime Minister's arrival, and I have never seen it so thronged before. The whole reception, in fact, was on a scale hitherto unprecedented and a far more imposing one than has ever been accorded to even the Shahs in the past, and a significant feature was the firing of guns at the moment of Sardar Sepah's arrival in the town, a salute which has hitherto been reserved exclusively for Royalty, and never before has such an honour been accorded to a Prime Minister.

Sardar Sepah drove through the streets, gay with bunting and other forms of Persian decoration, in an open car, in service cap and khaki great-

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coat, followed by the high military officials in Teheran on horseback in full-dress uniform. A procession of dust-stained cars from off the road, some twenty or thirty in number, containing the members of the Prime Minister's retinue (it resembled a Sovereign's suite rather than a Commander-in-Chief's staff!) followed Sardar Sepah's picturesque bodyguard of mounted tribesmen, Lurs, Kurds, and Arabs, and numerous carriages completed the procession. As soon as the Minister of War entered the square, a camel, garlanded and beribboned, was slaughtered opposite the Imperial Bank as a sacrifice, and this survival of the old barbaric custom of Scriptural days was rather out of keeping with the very modern nature of the decorations and illuminations; the incongruity was rather a jar on one.

Throughout the afternoon six of the Persian Government's aeroplanes at present in Teheran flew over the town, especially over the most crowded places, and provided a welcome form of amusement until the arrival of Sardar Sepah, a small scouting machine being especially noticeable, performing "stunts" and looping the loop continuously, to the delight of the onlookers. The other heavier planes frequently gave exhibitions of low flying, just skimming the housetops, and causing quite a thrill to the spectators on the roofs. They also dropped pamphlets of welcome from the sky, and these were eagerly scrambled for as they dropped among the crowds. In the evening the Artillery Square was brilliantly illuminated, the Municipal Hall on the north, the Imperial Bank of Persia on the east, the telegraph office on the south, and the police station on the west all being a blaze of electric lights of various colours, fireworks adding to the brilliance of the spectacle. The next day, Friday, being a public holiday, was taken advantage of by the crowds to admire the decorations, and the illuminations were continued in the evening, when Sardar Sepah drove to the Municipal Hall, where he was greeted enthusiastically by the large crowds present in the square. A reception was held in the hall, to welcome the Prime Minister, who was received by Colonel Karim Agha, the head of the municipality.

Sardar Sepah, in reply to the address of welcome, made a speech in which he said that it was owing to the weakness of previous Governments that people in Khuzistan had been encouraged to believe themselves an independent province, but now that the Persian flag floats over its most distant borders, it is, and will always remain, an integral part of the Persian Empire. The Premier then proceeded across the square to the Nazmieh (police station), where he met with an equally cordial reception. Subsequently the Military Governor of Teheran, General Morteza Khan, following the European custom, presented Sardar Sepah, on behalf of the Municipality, with a golden casket bearing a design of the Baladieh (Municipal Hall), and containing a golden key, representing, presumably, the freedom of the city, the Prime Minister being thus the first freeman of Teheran.

The excitement has now subsided, and the town is resuming its normal aspect, the arches and decorations having been taken down. The papers announced the other day that a certain number of the recently issued provisional stamps, printed at the Parliament press to remedy a sorely felt lack of stamps caused by the non-arrival of supplies the current issue from Holland, will be surcharged in honour of the Prime Minister's return.

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Teheran and Arabistan.

The terms of the settlement arrived at between the Sardar Sepah and Sheikh Khazal are not yet publicly known, but, if reports are true, they are entirely satisfactory to the Central Government, as well as to the Sheikh, who has apparently quite saved his face and retained most of his authority in Arabistan over the various tribes, though being under a Military Governor appointed by the Teheran Government, and the province being occupied by Government troops. The Sheikh has also agreed to pay all taxes and revenue due by him to the Treasury, and this will mean a quite considerable annual addition to the State coffers. One of the Sheikh's sons, Sheikh Abdul Karim, who has been given the title of Sardar Lashkar, has come to Teheran to act as an A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief with the rank of colonel in the army.

The Weather.

After a comparatively mild autumn, winter has now set in in earnest, and most of the country is frostbound. For a week before Christmas it rained almost incessantly, turning on Christmas Eve to a slight snowfall, and making of the streets a sea of liquid mud such as only Teheran streets can boast of. That night, however, it froze, and since then the mercury has been falling steadily, as much as 20 degrees of frost being recorded during the nights. The last few days have, however, been somewhat warmer, and the bright, crisp, sunny days make the cold more bearable than would be the case in a damp climate. Shiraz, a short while ago, experienced slight earthquake shocks, which occurred frequently during a fortnight and caused a certain amount of panic among the inhabitants. A snowfall of over 3 feet is reported from Mazanderan, and also from Enzeli and Resht, a most unusual occurrence in this district, lying as it does some 80 feet below the level of the Black Sea, and communications with these places by road have been interrupted for the past fortnight, during which time no mails from Europe via Russia have reached the capital. Severe weather is likewise reported from the Northern, Southern, and Western Provinces, and floods have caused much damage in the Duzdab, Kain, and Seistan districts.

A French Airman.

Much anxiety was felt in European circles a week or two ago as to the fate of M. Berhault, the French airman engaged by the Persian Government, who had a distinguished career in the French Air Force during the War. He left Bunder Dilam on the Persian Gulf to fly direct to Ispahan, although doubt was expressed as to the feasibility of such a feat. He flew without an observer, so as to be lighter, but he apparently was unable to cross the high Bakhtiari mountains, and all trace of him was lost for nineteen days. Last week, when he had been given up for dead, news reached Teheran that he had been brought in to Ispahan. It appears he had to make a forced landing on a mountain without, it is said, damaging his machine at all, and, abandoning it, he wandered about in the bitter weather for two days without anything to eat, eventually reaching a small village, whence he sent word to Ispahan, which, however, took some time to reach the latter place, some fifty miles away. He is now in hospital in Ispahan suffering from severe frostbite, and it is feared he will lose two or three toes.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 12, 1925 (New Style).
January 30, 1925 (Old Style).
Rajab 18, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 18, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London on February 3 from Paris.

The Persian Minister in London has now recovered from his recent indisposition.

M. D. N. Ciotori, of the Roumanian Legation, left London last Sunday for Brussels.

M. and Mme. Jean Masaryk have left for India, and will be away some three months.

The Lithuanian Minister in London last Thursday visited the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires.

Queen Olga of Greece, who is at present residing in Rome, has arranged to visit London during the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buckley, who are spending the winter in India, will be returning early in April to 57, Brompton Square.

Mme. Titulesco, who has been lying ill in Paris for six weeks, is now very much better, and has left France for Switzerland.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh is staying at the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath, and is taking a course of the baths and waters.

Colonel A. D. Bannerman, Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India, who has recently been ill, is now recuperating at Cheltenham.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Minister to the United States, and Princess Bibesco will sail from England on February 18 for New York.

Mr. Sheldon L. Crosby, Counsellor of the American Embassy, Constantinople, left London last Friday for Constantinople, via Paris, to take up his new duties.

Mr. Norman Nairn, of the Nairn Transport Company, who arrived in London from Beyrout last week, left for New York on business in the s.s. Mauretania on February 7.

M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister, left London on February 5 for Geneva to attend the League of Nations. Monsieur N. Mishu will act as Chargé d'Affaires during his absence.

The will of Colonel Henry Davison Love (72), R.E. (retired), of Moorlands, Chagford, Devon, at one time Principal of the Civil Engineering College at Madras (net personalty, £21,750), has been proved at £21,958.

Sir Charles Greenway, Bart., chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, sailed for Buenos Aires on the Almanzora on February 6, on a mission to the Argentine Government. He is accompanied by Sir Arnold T. Wilson, and Lady Greenway is also a member of the party.

Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, private secretary to the Viceroy of India, who last week reached London on six months' leave, proceeded to his home in Ireland. The Earl of Reading has appointed Mr. H. Graham Haig, for some years Deputy-Secretary of the Finance Department, to act as his private secretary.

OBITUARY.

Brigade-Surgeon Francis Collins, a veteran of the Indian Mutiny, died at St. Andrews, Lyme Regis, on February 3, in his 93rd year. He served with the 5th Foot, and was present at the Relief of Lucknow. He was also with General Outram's Division during the occupation of the Alum Bagh, and was present at the final capture of Lucknow under Sir Colin Campbell.

The death occurred on February 2, in her 96th year, of Mrs. Huxham, who must have been one of the last, if not the last, of those heroic Englishwomen who endured the siege of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny in 1857.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles David Myers Gall, whose death, in his 72nd year, took place at Melton last Thursday, served in the Afghan War of 1879 and the following year, taking part in the defence of Kandahar, in the sortie of Deh Khoja, and in the battle of Kandahar. He was also in the Sudan Expedition of 1885.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Hassanein Bey, who recently became First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, has been appointed Chamberlain to King Fuad. He will probably be succeeded in London by the Second Secretary, Mohamed Kamel Moursy Bey.

It is understood, says *The Times*, that Major-General John H. K. Stewart, C.B., D.S.O., will shortly be appointed to the command at Aden as General Officer Commanding the troops and Political Resident. Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Scott has been there since 1920, a year longer than is customary. Aden is increasing in importance, owing to its position for air flight, and it has a detachment of the Royal Air Force at Khar Maksar, in support of the fortress personnel at Steamer Point and the garrison at Crater, and of the Yemen infantry at Perim, Kamaran, and other places.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1925.

THE ARABIAN UPHEAVAL.

The situation in the Arabian Peninsula is still obscure, but less tantalisingly so than it was formerly. For certain definite things do emerge from the darkness which enshrouds the activities and the intentions of Sultan Abdul Aziz Ibn Saoud of Nejd. There is, for example, the patent fact that the Kingdom of the Hejaz is a ruin; there is the fact that Jeddah, which, being, as one says, defended but by King Ali and a wild Russian with an aeroplane, is like, and has anxiously been expected, to fall at any moment into the hands of the Wahhabis, is enjoying a reprieve because of the existence of larger game, so to speak, farther south—we mean the person of the Idrisi of Asir, who yet holds the port of Hodeida, the proper outlet of the Yemen. It is considered probable, incidentally, although it has not actually been confirmed, that this Wahhabi attack upon the Idrisi is being made in concert with the Imam Yehia of the Yemen: in which case there is as little chance—and there need be little regret for the fact—of the protracted survival of the Idrisi. However this may be, no one can question that the Wahhabis now dominate the peninsula. Their conquests are not so spectacular nor so far-reaching as were those of their forbears at the beginning of last century, it is true; but at least their domain extends from Persian Gulf to Red Sea. This successful ebullition of the Nejdis needs the exercise of very considerable ingenuity and strength to keep it within manageable bounds; the further from Riyadh the Wahhabi ripples extend the weaker becomes the impelling and controlling force, and it may conceivably be that even the fervour of the Ikhwan may a little decrease in the heady pleasaunces of such a place as Taif, or grow less disciplined in front of the temptation of fresh and richer pasturages in Iraq. At the moment, in fact, it is impossible to say whether the Wahhabis will rest content with their present victories, consolidating what they have won, or yielding certain portions of it to their friends; or, in a wild and ungoverned surge, attempt to sweep north and west and south, in order to make a united Arabia. For our part, we should say that, Ibn Saoud being still at the head of the Wahhabis, they will not further strive, but, after disposing as best they can of their already rather unmanageable booty, retire, strengthened and decidedly refreshed, to their own and proper Nejd.

What are the effects of this Puritanical surge? Will it, as is sometimes averred, completely upset the political balance of Islam? Will it reinform its religious shape and direction? These are questions, important though they be, that are difficult enough to answer. So much depends on the controlling of the movement by the greatest Arab of to-day, Ibn Saoud. While he retains command, it may be anticipated that no attempt at Wahhabi domination outside the Peninsula proper will be made; it is even thought that the present width of his domain is not wholly to his liking. It is certain, at any rate, that his sapient restraint can be perceived in the fact that the Hejazis are yet allowed to remain in Medina, for Ibn Saoud, though first a Wahhabi and a Nejdi, does not forget that he, too, is of Islam, nor that the actions of his predecessors in Medina more than a century ago shocked the Moslem world. To all the important Arab chiefs inside the Peninsula Ibn Saoud is a friend—those who are his enemies he could, and probably will, crush. To the British, who control the mandated territories to the north of his charge, he is also a friend; and there is no need to suppose that he will be faithless to his word to this country. Politically, therefore, it would appear that the effect of his striking successes will be confined to Arabia proper. The religious repercussion is much more difficult to estimate. It is a fact, not generally known, but of considerable pertinence, that the Wahhabi brotherhoods which were founded in India last century after the success of the Wahhabis in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, very materially worried the British authorities in India. Such a stimulant and such a consequence might again be provided, and the effect is impossible to gauge. Again, fresh attention will inevitably be drawn to the possibilities for insurrection among the Senussi in North Africa. Taking all in all, however, we should incline to say that the Wahhabi revival will have less general result upon the world of Islam and the world of Christendom than, say, the success of the Rifi under Abdul Kerim against a Christian Power. It follows from this that, as we have before indicated, we believe the policy of the British Government in maintaining neutrality in the dispute between the Nejd and the Hejaz was a correct one. Had Hussein had the common sense to conclude an Anglo-Hejazi Treaty, the issue might conceivably have assumed a different aspect; as it happened, in no sense were the interests involved sufficient to justify our intervention.

Arising immediately out of this Wahhabi upheaval there are, of course, several important problems—important, first, to Islam, and, next, to Europe, particularly to Great Britain. The most urgent question is that of the future of the Holy Places. Mecca could be kept in Wahhabi hands; besides being a source of revenue, which might go to the Riyadh exchequer, it would probably redound to the benefit of Ibn Saoud, who certainly would govern it, or have it and the routes to it governed, better than in the bad old days of ex-King Hussein. But it seems that Ibn Saoud is not particularly happy in Mecca, and by no means wishes to be wholly responsible for it. He has decided, in fact, to let a Moslem Commission decide upon its future jurisdiction, even though the fact that Shereef Ali Haidar has been more or less nominated for the post may be a sufficient indication that a unanimous vote which should also coincide with the opinion of the Sultan of Nejd might be the best possible solution. In any case, this question of the Holy Places must be decided in some way or other before the Pilgrimage next summer. Again, there is the question of the Caliphate. For the moment Cairo, whose Conference was next month to have resolved this problem, is under a cloud, and the most important administrative centre of Islam at present is Mecca. Finally, there is the question of the *haj*. Ever since the War the lot of the pilgrims had, in the hands of the rapacious Hussein, been very far from enviable. The Pilgrimage of the post-War period compares, moreover, in no way with that of the pre-War period. This may be explained partly, of course, by reference to temporary causes—the breakdown of the Hejaz Railway, for example, the unsettled political conditions in the Middle East, and so on; but there are grounds for believing that Mecca, although it must naturally always be the centre of

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the Prophet's religion, may decline in importance. That, however, is a speculation for and against which there is much to be said: the immediate point is that, whatever fire the Wahhabi revival may put into Islam, and whatever improvements the Ikhwan may effect in Arabia, particularly in the Hejaz, it can hardly be argued that this great stirring will induce distant Moslems to risk close contact with and conversion by a people that boasts a fanaticism which, after all, is more a product of geographical conditions than of religious insight.

A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.

By ARTHUR CARR.

Alexandria and Haifa.

My aim in this article is to be of use to business men who may themselves be intending to make a journey or who may wish to send travellers out to the Middle East. The route which I intend to describe was covered by me within the last few months under conditions varying from the most modern to the most ancient, and in the following stages:—London to Baghdad, Baghdad to Teheran, Teheran to Tabriz, Tabriz to Trebizond, Trebizond to London.

I left London on September 9, and went by the usual route via Calais, Marseilles, to Alexandria. The beauties of the Mediterranean, the passage through the Straits of Messina, the eruption of Stromboli have been so often described as to have become commonplace. I shall not, therefore, attempt to add anything to what has already been written. I left Marseilles on September 11 at 6 p.m. by the General Metzinger, and arrived at Alexandria at 8 a.m. Monday, the 15th.

As the object of my journey was not Egypt, but farther eastward, I did not waste much time in Alexandria. After two hours' delay in getting through the Customs, I drove straight to the Splendid Hotel by Mehmed Ali Square, and had a good breakfast. After that, as I had a few hours to spare, I thought I would just have a walk round and see what alterations had been made since my previous visits before the War. All is much the same. Mehmed Ali still looks down unmoved on the same dirty natives whom he ruled with such an iron hand. I missed, however, several names over shops which I had seen before. To give one only—"Stein," which had always stood out so conspicuously. Well I remember standing on this same square at the time Turkey was waging war with Italy in Tripoli. The Egyptians were elated over a reported victory by the Turks, and speeches were being made. A contingent of Italians arrived, and, becoming irritated

THE AUTHOR.

at the jubilation of the Egyptians, quarrels commenced, blows were struck, and revolvers flashed out. Then commenced a terrible scene. Red fezes seemed to come up out of the ground. The Italians were beaten off, every shop front was smashed in, and looting commenced. That night Kitchener ordered out the military police, and, as if by magic, all was calm again. What a pity we have no Kitchener in Egypt now! Perhaps had we had, this most recent tragedy would not have been. As I still walked about, I felt the call of Cairo and the Pyramids, but this time I was to pass them by. I left Alexandria at 4 p.m. the same day for Kantara West, crossed the Suez Canal by the pontoon at Kantara East, passed again through the Customs, and took train at 11.30 p.m. for Haifa. I was very surprised to find such a comfortable train, provided with both sleeping and dining cars. At 9.30 next morning, September 16, we arrived in Haifa Station. Up to here I had travelled by the orthodox routes and methods, but from here for thousands of miles I was to travel over one of the most ancient routes in the world in modern motor-cars. Routes which

ACRE: THE MOSQUE AND HARBOUR.

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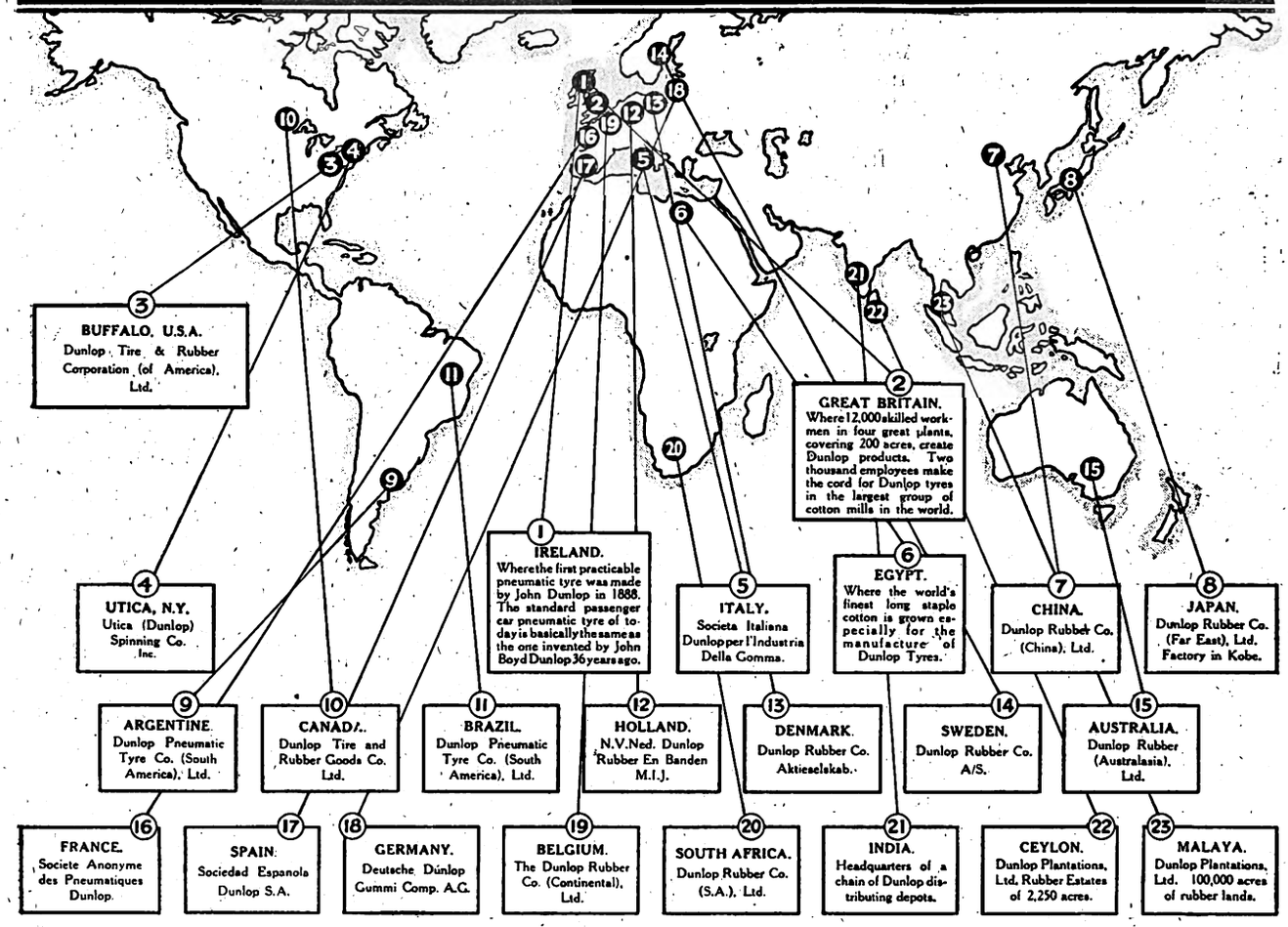

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until now had been trodden only by camels, mules, bullocks, and other animals, doing ten miles or at most twenty miles a day from sunrise to sunset. The Nairn Transport Company have now altered all this. At Haifa Station a representative of this company met me, took my luggage, secured it along the running board of a Buick car, started up the engine, and at 10.30 a.m. I was on my way to Beyrout *en route* for Baghdad. On the black bonnet of the car was painted, in large, white letters, "Nairn Transport Company. Haifa—Beyrout." What a splendid advertisement!

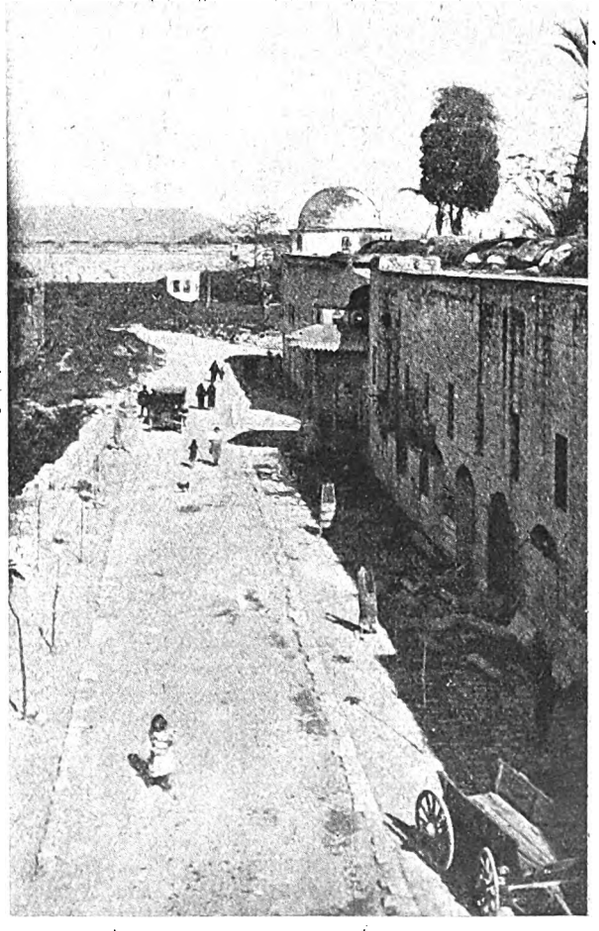
Haifa to Beyrout.

For a few miles out of Haifa it is not an ideal motor way. Nothing but ruts and sand, in some places covered with wire netting, which I understood had been put down during the War to stop the wheels of motor lorries sinking too deep in this loose sand. However, the chauffeur seemed to be quite unconscious of the terrible bumps which threatened to pitch me clean out of the car. Finally we ran clear of the loose sand and for miles skirted the edge of the waves. We went smoothly and swiftly, as the surface was now an ideal one, firm and hard. The object of this article is a practical one, but still I cannot refrain from making some remarks regarding the beauty of this drive. Starting from under the shadow of Mount Carmel, sometimes we were skirting the seaboard, and then suddenly we ran inland amongst vineyards and olive groves. With a turquoise-blue sky overhead, the blue Mediterranean at our feet, surrounded by luxuriant verdure, one almost felt in dreamland. I think one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen was the dream picture of the white walls of Acre glistening in the sun and lapped by the blue sea. As we glided along I thought how many men of different civilisations must have looked on these ancient white walls and desired this rich land. What a history has had this ancient Ptolmais, taken by Crusaders, recovered by Saladin, retaken by Richard I, at the cost of 100,000 men; its white walls must have been drenched in red blood! Taken again by the Turk, by the French, by the Egyptians, again and again changing rulers, and now once more taken by English and French. All nations seem to have coveted this rich land. Thousands of soldiers who have fought and died now sleep well, but this beautiful land, with its century-old fortresses, with its limestone and chalk hills, with its bursting vineyards and teeming orchards, still survives. I, an ordinary, plain business man, travelling in a Buick car, with its flaring advertisement "Nairn Transport Company, Haifa—Beyrout," came under the spell of this lovely country, and it was good to think that it was left to my own countrymen to wrest it from the hands of the Turk once more.

I was brought back to earth by the motor slowing down. We were ascending a beautiful white road, up a hill close by the sea, where the view was marvellous. Then the motor stopped. A British "Tommy" saluted. We were at the frontier. I showed my passport, which he glanced at and returned with a "Good-day, sir." On we sped again, with the road glistening white in the brilliant sunshine. The route for some fifteen miles from Beyrout is quite good, but the white road becomes very trying to the eyes unless one has tinted glasses. We reached Beyrout at 4 p.m. Actual running time from Haifa about five hours. I put up at the "Hotel d'Orient," which I think is the best. I dined at the restaurant "Alphonse" by the sea, and as the sun went down I once more sat and marvelled at the wondrous purple haze on the hills of Lebanon across the Bay, which I have always considered one of the most lovely things to be seen on this ever-beautiful Mediterranean coast.

Beyrout.

As the motor did not leave for Damascus until Thursday, to my regret, I must waste a day here However, it was not all loss, because this old Phœnician seaport, situated in this most picturesque position at the foot of Lebanon, has ever much of interest to show. There is also Baalbek which one can visit, and Dog River, with its rock inscriptions. This was not, however, my first visit to Beyrout, and I had already seen these places. I therefore simply walked slowly along the streets of this ancient town, where one finds such a medley of the East and West inextricably mixed up. Here is a dirty little shop, where one finds articles of real Eastern craftsmanship, real Damascene blades at which one marvels. Here is another shop showing many articles of the Orient, but too obviously Oriental, and only meant for American or European globe-trotters. Beyrout as a commercial port has lost much of its former importance, but with new methods of transport over Lebanon to Damascus and now to distant Iraq, there seems the probability of its becoming once again one of the important ports of the world. Let us hope that the new orientation of power in this part of the world will lead to stability and progress. For nearly 500 years under the stagnant rule of the Turk this country has added nothing to history, nor to the progress of mankind. Islam does not stand for progress.



A STREET IN ACRE.

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The Desert Mail.

I left Beyrout at 2.30 on Thursday, September 18, en route for Damascus, again in a Buick car, but this time the black bonnet was painted "Nairn Desert Mail Transport Company." The man who had the idea to write that on the bonnet would have made his mark as an advertising agent. "Desert Mail"—what ideas those two words conjure up! Tales read in boyhood of the limitless desert, of camels, caravans, and camp fires. Even I, an old hardened traveller for more than twenty years, who have met many men in many climes, in Africa, in Asia, who have travelled the Libyan and Nubian deserts, once again my imagination was caught, and I wondered. "Desert Mail:" I have travelled these Eastern countries by horse, by camel, by caravan, but here was something new. Across 600 miles of desert by motor. The Syrian Desert from Damascus to Baghdad!

A touch on the starter and we were off, three other passengers and myself. One of the brothers "Nairn" at the wheel, a fine type of Colonial, straight and slim of figure. If I am any judge of character, and if it is in the hands of such men, I would fearlessly predict success for the Nairn Transport Company.

We left Beyrout behind and began a steady climb of the Lebanon hills. "Lebanon" means white, or, rather, is derived from a Semitic root meaning "white," and these hills are truly white, evidently belonging to a geologically cretaceous system; they consist principally of limestone and chalk. What a climb and what a view of the blue Mediterranean, 3,000, 6,000, to 7,000 and 8,000 feet below! Every turn brought a new panorama, ever more wonderful than the one just passed, whilst Nairn at the wheel took gradients and hair-raising bends as coolly as if he had been on a laid track. What a magnificent ride, with thrills and sensations enough to satisfy the most daring! Finally, we reached the top, and I can understand the thrill of delight of the traveller coming in the opposite direction when he reaches this spot, and sees the Mediterranean for the first time, with Europe lying beyond. After the seeming interminable sands of the desert from Baghdad to Damascus, he must feel like Moses of old as he viewed the "Promised Land." And now we commenced to descend towards Damascus, which lies some 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, catching now and again a glimpse of the single-line railway which runs from Beyrout to Damascus. I well remember the slow and tedious journey I once made by this line at about ten miles per hour. We arrived at Damascus at 6.30 p.m., Thursday, September 18.

(To be continued.)

The Lord Chancellor has settled the following presentation:—The Rev. C. W. Wootton, Hon. C.F., who has spent some years in India as chaplain at Trivandrum, Travancore, to the Vicarage of Great Ness, Shrewsbury.

At a plenary meeting in Bucharest on February 4, the Holy Synod decided upon the creation of a Patriarchate for the Roumanian Orthodox Church, and raised the Primate, Mgr. Miron Cristea, to the rank of Patriarch with the title of Archbishop and Metropolitan of Ungro-Vlachj, Patriarch of Roumania.

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DIGGING IN THE NEAR EAST.

The Hellenic Society held a meeting on February 6 at Westminster School, when Dr. D. G. Hogarth gave an address to the boys on "Travel and Digging in the Near East." For thirty-five years, he said, he had done many diggings in Greece, Cyprus, Crete, Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt; and he could tell them that digging was not all joy. It was a hard life, with certain dangers and innumerable difficulties. He showed by means of films how digging was done, and explained how much more important tomb digging was than ordinary digging. In 1904 he went out for the British Museum to the Great Temple of Diana of the Ephesians, where tomb digging entailed great responsibility and practical difficulty. He explained the nature of the discoveries he made there; and, referring to the work that was again being done at Tutankhamen's tomb, said he had not the slightest doubt that if the Egyptian Government had not been able to make an arrangement with Mr. Howard Carter to continue the work he had begun there they would not have found anyone else to go on with it. Mr. Carter would not, however, be entitled to anything he found; but after his experience there he would be able to save several years in conducting the investigation to a conclusion.

M. Gavrilovitch, the new Yugoslav Minister to Greece, arrived at Athens on February 3.

General Sarrail, the French High Commissioner in Syria, returned to Beyrout last Friday from Damascus, where his reception by the Syrian population was extremely cordial.

According to a telegram from Tiflis published in the *Izvestia*, Kuchukhidse, the head of the Kutais (Georgia) Political Bureau (Secret Police) was assassinated in that town on the night of January 28, by "a band of Menshevists."

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Trade Outlook.

The speeches at the annual meetings of the banks have revealed a fairly hopeful attitude with regard to the trade outlook. The Chairman of Lloyds Bank, Mr. Beaumont Pease, whose speech at the general meeting (a report of which will be found on another page) was read by the Deputy-Chairman owing to his absence through illness, takes a cheerful if somewhat guarded view of the position The bank's figures show a marked increase in advances and a considerable increase in profits, and Mr. Pease points out that from these figures one would correctly gather that trade has been on the upward trend. He pointed out last year that signs were not wanting that this would be the case. "It may well be," he added, "that historians will look back on the tenth anniversary of the war as the first that showed any indications of a real peace."

The Dawes Report.

Mr. Pease referred to the Dawes report, which he regards as an indication of a real return to sanity on the part of the nations involved, as the outstanding event of the year. As he justly pointed out, it constitutes the chief practical attempt at reconstruction after the War. Even the Dawes scheme, however, is not without its critics, and Mr. Pease devoted some attention to the objections which have been raised against it. There is in the first place the natural prejudice against a loan, combined with the fear that a restored Germany would be a serious industrial menace. There is also the view that the experts erred on the side of optimism on the financial aspect of the scheme. On the latter point Mr. Pease remarks that if this did prove to be the case it should not necessarily involve the breakdown of the whole scheme, for there is a provision against the possibility of a default arising, if it is unavoidable and not due to bad faith on the part of Germany. In regard to the other criticism, the public of all the Allied nations took a broad and, he believed, a statesmanlike view, arguing that the reconstruction of Germany is only part of the larger problem of the reconstruction of Europe.

German Trade Rivalry.

Proceeding to deal with the question of German commercial competition, Mr. Pease stated that the competitive advantage in international trade which Germany now has, owing to the fact that her internal debt has been practically wiped out by inflation, will be largely counterbalanced by the increased taxes and charges on industry which will have to be levied to provide reparation payments. One of the advantages will disappear with the stabilisation of the currency, while the receipt by this country of reparation payments, although it may temporarily depress some of the export industries, will increase the real income of the people, and therefore add to the purchasing power of the home markets. Mr. Pease added that it must be remembered that German imports at present largely exceed her exports, and there is still a long way to go before her exports reach their pre-war level, and any disadvantage which we may suffer from her competition will, in his opinion, be more than counterbalanced by the beneficial results of a revival of international trade which the Dawes scheme is likely to bring about. "I trust," he continued, "that it is not too much to hope that the economic regeneration of Europe has now definitely commenced. The example of the help given to Austria has been followed by similar aids to Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, and Greece."

The Exhibition.

In a few weeks time the Exhibition will be upon us again. The work of preparation is now in full swing, and the plans in view suggest that this year's undertaking will be even more interesting than last year's, which is saying a good deal. As to whether it will prove an equal attraction is, however, another matter. The crowds who thronged the Exhibition last summer were very largely composed of people who had given up a seaside holiday for one in London, and what they have done once they may not be prepared to do again, though against that the railways are to arrange most attractive excursions to London, which at long last they have discovered is entitled to take a place among holiday resorts. It is also probable that there will be a much larger influx of visitors from abroad, especially from the Continent, in consequence of the improvement in economic conditions generally, so that, given fine weather, Wembley may be just as unpleasantly crowded as it was at times last year.

The Sudan Contract.

Our Khartoum Correspondent, in a letter which will be found on another page, gives full details of the contract that has been made with the Sudan Government by a British group for the erection of a bridge across the White Nile from Khartoum to Omdurman and the taking over of the water, light, and tramway systems. As will be seen, the work for which the new company will be responsible is of a most varied character. The company is to take over its duties on November 1 next.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

THE SUDAN.

Khartoum, January 21.

Contract for British Group.

Lord Meston has recently returned to London after signing the final and binding contract with the Sudan Government for the erection of a bridge across the White Nile from Khartoum to Omdurman, and the taking over of the existing Government services, such as the water, light, and tramway systems. He was the representative of an English group formed last summer, comprising the Prudential Insurance Company, the English Electric Co., Ltd., Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd., and Callander's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd. This group is to form a limited company with a capital of £356,000. In addition to this, the company will issue £400,000 debentures, to be guaranteed by the British Treasury under the Trade Facilities Acts, 1921-1924. The basic principle of the contract or agreement is that all works and extensions constructed by the company, as well as the existing services, shall be the property of the Sudan Government, and that during the period of concession, which expires on December 31, 1955, the whole will revert to the Government, which will repay the share capital and provide for the redemption of the debentures.

The work for which the company will be responsible may be briefly stated:—

1. The erection of a nine-span bridge (steel) from Khartoum (Moghren) to Omdurman. Its length will be 1,150 yards, and its width 9½ yards, and its cost is estimated at between £250,000 and £300,000.

2. Take over the existing steam tramway service in the three towns and replace it by an electric system, and with the completion of the bridge, to extend it to Omdurman as one "through" service, the whole to operate for the transport of goods and passengers.

3. The extension of the existing power station in Khartoum and the installation of new generating plant capable of supplying sufficient power for the whole undertaking, with ample reserve to meet emergencies arising from unforeseen circumstances.

4. The provision of electric light and power to Omdurman, with a long main connection with the power station.

5. The development of the present distribution system of electric light and power in Khartoum and Khartoum North.

6. The provision of a complete waterworks system for Omdurman, the water being delivered to consumers by means of the normal town development.

7. The installation of sufficient plant to supply ice manufactured from filtered water to the inhabitants of the three towns, the supply to be sufficient to meet all public demands.

The company is to take over its duties on November 1, 1925, and from that date will operate all services with efficiency and without intermission. Work has already commenced, particularly in regard to the bridge, as full advantage is to be taken of this year's low Nile, which commences during October. This work is naturally confined to plant and equipment production at home, and local work on anything like a large scale cannot possibly commence until the autumn.

The Government is to be congratulated on having found such a group of first-class business firms to take an interest in this first municipal venture, and it is the hope of every resident here that success will be achieved, and that the introduction of British capital in this instance will be but the forerunner of many similar ventures.

COMMISSION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE SUFFERED IN TURKEY.

The Commission for the Assessment of Damage suffered in Turkey, which was set up in August last, has laid down its procedure, and is receiving claims from nationals of the Powers concerned.

It is understood that the British, French, and Italian delegates will visit the Near East in March next, going first to Constantinople, whence they will proceed to Smyrna, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

The number of claims received to date is so considerable that it will be necessary to send sub-commissions to the Near East, if the claims are to be investigated and paid within a reasonable time. Consequently, the objects of the Commission in their forthcoming visit will be confined to the exchange of information with diplomatic and consular officers, to hearing the views of local chambers of commerce and other organisations, and generally to ascertaining local conditions with a view to future procedure.

A cable received by the Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., from Bucharest states that the well at Runcu announced on the 2nd inst. as flowing at the rate of 200 tons per day, is not one previously reported, but No. 5, a new well to reach the recently discovered lower oil sand.

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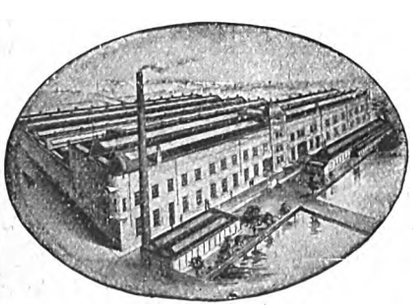
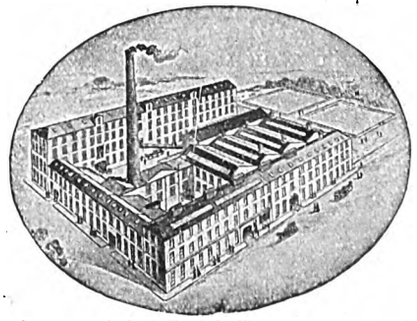
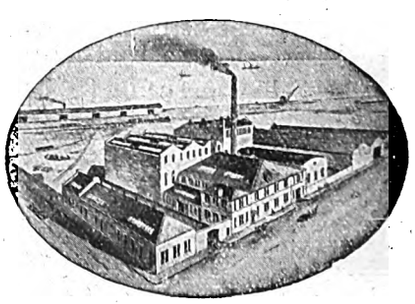

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POPULATION PROBLEMS FROM THE INDIAN CENSUS.

At a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on February 6 a paper was read by Mr. J. T. Marten, M.A., I.C.S., Census Commissioner for India, on "Population Problems from the Indian Census."

Dealing with the growth of population, Mr. Marten said:—The population of India as a whole and, with the exception of Assam and some few concentrated industrial areas, of the administrative units—the Provinces and States—is self-contained. Migration is small and quantitatively unimportant. The population grows by natural reproduction, the chief characteristics of this growth being a high birth rate, owing chiefly to the universality of marriage, and a correspondingly high death rate, a large proportion of which represents infant mortality. The measure of progress, *i.e.*, the difference between the birth and death rates, is not greater than that of many countries of Europe, and may, perhaps, be estimated at a normal of 7 or 8 per cent. in a decade. It would be interesting if we could arrive at some definite estimate of the factors which govern the standards of growth and the periodical fluctuations from them. The official birth and death rates are too incomplete and imperfect to be of much use, and they do not classify the community in different social and economic strata. It is frequently stated that the variations in the "economic" circumstances of the people, due to good and bad harvests, form the principal factors in determining the variations in the birth and death rates. A confusion arises from the use of the word economic. In its wider sense, *i.e.*, as referring to all the conditions and circumstances of a "household," social, traditional, material, and domestic, the word expresses somewhat the same idea as that contained in the expression "standard of life." But it is easy to slip from the wider to the more restricted use of the word, as implying merely the financial and material resources of living, and this is where I think a very popular fallacy arises. In India, as in every other country, the most prolific portion of the population is at the lowest stratum, and modern theories incline to the view that a maximum fertility is associated with a simplicity of life, which usually includes a minimum subsistence diet, and that fertility automatically declines as life becomes more complex, more luxurious, more individualised, and more subject to nervous strain. This economic simplicity of living in the larger portion of the Indian population, along with the custom of universal marriage, has given India a high average birth rate. Diseases, due to climate and physical conditions, combined with the non-hygienic customs and traditions of the people, and their ignorance and indifference to maternal and infant welfare, lessen their resistance to disease and keep up the level of the death rate. These are the constants which regulate the vital standards, and which can change only slowly with the progress of education and social culture and with the improvement of the environment. Of the fluctuating influences which determine the periodical variations from the average the most important, if we except catastrophic years of famine, is the direct effect of climate on health, and not, I think, the smaller variations in the material conditions of the people. In the matter of housing, clothing, and diet the lowest strata of the Indian people are probably not worse off than the slum population of western towns, taking into consideration the differences of climate; and Mr. Calvert, in his interesting book, "The Wealth and Welfare of the Punjab," is able to show that the average Punjab peasant lives at a standard of life which is distinctly above that of a large portion of the peasantry in Southern and Eastern Europe. It has usually been held that high prices are accompanied by a high death rate, but the Health Officer of Bengal has recently shown that the opposite is the case. Dr. Mann, in his study of economic conditions in the Bombay Presidency, shows that the economic effect of prices differs in different classes of the agricultural community, and it is well known that dry years are, on the whole, the healthiest, though they are not usually years of economic prosperity. On the one hand, there appears to be an intimate connection between the quantity and distribution of the rainfall and the intensity of the infection of the diseases, such as malaria, dysentery, and so forth, which are chiefly responsible for the mortality, while on the other hand there is always in an agricultural population, even among those near the subsistence limit, a considerable margin of resource, which enables them to resist in a remarkable way temporary economic stringency.

The annual fluctuations of the birth and death rates are, therefore, probably much more dependent on the intensity and onslaught of the principal diseases than on any supposed variations in the resisting power to them of the people, owing to economic circumstances. In a graph showing the death rates over a long period of years a mean line drawn through the fluctuations would indicate the cultural and material progress of the population and its surroundings, while the annual fluctuations from the mean would show usually the result of temporary climatic and environmental changes and only occasionally economic catastrophes. The undoubted development of material resources has not, in the ordinary agricultural community, been accompanied by a cultural advance such as would affect the population quantitatively. To put the argument as simply as possible, if you could double or treble the annual income of every family in the poorer portions of the population, the effect on the vital statistics would not be noticeable for several decades, while if you could ensure each household against the economic effect of the ordinary fluctuations of the harvests it would not affect the annual variations in the birth and death rates. The chief factors are cultural, climate, and environmental rather than directly economic.

He went on to deal with migration, and said that the birthplace statistics of the Census give a valuable indication as to the manner in which local pressure of population is being relieved by redistribution. The completion of the great irrigation works of the Jhelum and Chenab Rivers have thrown open in the last ten years large areas of

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land in Northern India for cultivation. There has been an important movement of surplus population from the congested tracts of the centre and north of the Punjab into the canal areas of the south-west of the province. In the east of India the undeveloped lands of Assam have attracted thousands of permanent agricultural colonists from the dense areas of Eastern Bengal, while the tea garden population is steadily drawn from the lower strata of the United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Bihar and Orissa. Assam has almost doubled her population in the last fifty years, and it has been calculated that nearly a quarter of her present population is of foreign extraction. In the same way the waste lands of Orissa and the Santal Parganas are attracting increasing numbers of colonists from the neighbouring areas, especially the congested areas of the Ganges Valley in the United Provinces. But apart from the movements of agricultural colonists, there are important streams of labour migration partly for agricultural and partly for industrial purposes. Bihar and the western portions of the Central Provinces pour out their labouring population eastward to gather the harvests of Bengal and to fill the coal mines, jute factories and docks of the eastern industrial areas. The United Provinces sends three-quarters of a million labourers to Bengal, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Assam, and Burma. The enormous reservoir of labour filled by the backward classes of the Madras Presidency overflows into the plantations of Mysore and Travancore, and supplies the larger part of the overseas stream to the plantations and factories of Ceylon, the Malay States, and Burma. Burma has now more than half a million Indians, two-thirds of whom are Hindus or aboriginals. The majority are labourers from Madras, Bengal, and the United Provinces, and the increase in the decade is about 16 per cent. Labour emigration out of India has recently been checked by legislation, but there are nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ millions of Indians in other parts of the British Empire, most of whom are labourers. While a considerable part of the movement of labour in India is periodic and temporary, the labourers leaving their families behind and returning to their homes after the harvests or at periodic intervals, there is undoubtedly an increasing tendency towards permanent movement and settlement, and in many cases the migration which is here described, and which the improvement of communications has done much to stimulate, is an important factor both in the material improvement of the resources of the people, and as a moral stimulus which is gradually overcoming the conservative and immobile character of the population.

Another aspect of the redistribution of the population which has in India some interesting and characteristic features is the distribution between country and town. The Indian is not, as a rule, a genuine town dweller, and urbanisation has made very slow progress, the whole increase in the urban population in the last thirty years amounting to only 1 per cent. Even this increase is confined within very limited areas. Many of the areas classed as towns have few genuine urban characteristics, a considerable portion of their population being actually or virtually agricultural. The figures show very clearly that the medium-sized country town is either stationary or decadent, and that it is only, or at any rate chiefly, in the large towns and cities that, under the influence of commercial or industrial expansion, there has been any considerable growth of population. In these larger classes of towns—viz., towns of over 50,000 persons, the increase in the urban population amounts to 16 per cent. or more in the decade: in towns between 20,000 and 50,000, 8 per cent., and in towns between 10,000 and 20,000, less than 1 per cent. A somewhat ominous feature in connection with this urban industrialisation is disclosed by the sex statistics of the larger industrial towns. While, for example, in Bengal the proportion of women to men in all towns has been steadily falling, showing that a growing proportion of the town populations consists of more or less temporary immigrants who have left their families behind, this growing disparity in the sex ratio is specially conspicuous in Calcutta and the industrial towns, and is becoming a real danger signal. The influx into the industrial areas of male labourers who have left their families behind has steadily increased, so that in Calcutta males outnumber females by over two to one; and the corresponding change in the average sized industrial or commercial town is still more remarkable. In Calcutta, there are only 374 married women per 1,000 married men, and only 47 p.c. of the women were returned as married. The male labourers being nearly all married with a wife somewhere away at home in the country, this disparity means that most of the workers are leading an unnatural existence, missing the steadying influence of home life, and only anxious to earn enough to get back to their homes and families. It is not unnatural that their employers find that they have little heart in their work and that they are notoriously unsteady. Similar conditions obtain in other large industrial centres.

(To be concluded.)

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Cyprus, January 10.

The local markets are very dull, and very little is doing. The weather conditions are favourable for the growing crops.

Cyprus, January 17.

The local prices of carobs continue to rise. Sales have been effected at Limassol at 25s. per kantar. The weather conditions continue favourable for the growing crops.

Baghdad, December 27.

Business stagnation exists owing to the requisition of transport on the frontiers by the Persian authorities.

Basrah, December 27.

The market has shown a slight improvement. Sugar, tea, and other colonial produce are in demand, and tend to rise. After the heavy rains, a freezing cold has prevailed everywhere, thus hampering communications with the interior.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	292-294
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	290-295
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.78-24.80
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$d-1s. 6d
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	93.45-93.55
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	925-930
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	342-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$d-1s. 6d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	900-915
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.78¾-4.78⅞
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	88.90-88.95
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161¾-162
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	115⅜-115½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	655-660
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	338-340,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25 22½	24.80-25 00

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ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN EGYPT.

The presence of large quantities of cheap German wiring materials and devices gives the wiring practice of Egypt a decidedly German stamp (says an American Consular report). France shares in a small portion of the better-grade material, while British devices are too expensive for common use by the large number of small Egyptian electrical contractors.

There is no organisation in this country which tests or approves wiring material. This lack of a regulatory body to pass upon the fitness or safety of devices for dwellings, offices, or factories has filled the market with inferior grades of wire, sockets, fuses, etc., to their own ultimate detriment and the immediate detriment of quality materials.

Before the authorities of the local electric lighting companies will sanction new installations they require an estimate of the number of electric lighting and other fixtures to be used. The lighting company makes use of this information to calculate the size of meter to be installed on the premises.

Approximately 90 per cent. of the electric installations use flexible twisted pair carried across walls and ceilings on small porcelain knobs or "button insulators." Frequently porcelain tubes are put through the stone walls and partitions of buildings, but it is not the general rule. The semi-fireproof character of the buildings does not require the use of armoured cable or tubing for protection, especially in dwellings and offices. Some factories, such as ginneries and cotton-pressing establishments, which have a real fire hazard, do employ these safety devices, the armoured cable in particular.

There is no standard copper wire gauge in use. There are no regulations governing the size of wire permitted in the wiring of dwellings. Rubber-covered wire is not required, but is generally used by the better class of contractors.

Porcelain rotary switches from Germany are the most popular, and enjoy a large sale on account of the very low price. Other types kept in stock by the large contractors are the tumbler and push button, but sales are small.

The prevailing type of socket in use is the bayonet, but many electrical fixtures from Germany and Czecho-Slovakia, especially the cluster chandelier fixtures, are fitted with the Edison screw socket. The screw socket, however, is found only in a few of the better class of dwellings, and hardly ever in offices and factories.

As the electric wires are normally carried across walls and not concealed, on account of the solid stone partitions, it is an easy matter to put in special connections near the floor. The plugs are invariably porcelain on a wooden base. The most usual extensions commonly used with plugs are small table or floor portable lights and fans, electric irons and vacuum cleaners. Radiators find but a small sale in this country. Plugs flush with the wall are never installed in any building having solid partitions.

Germany supplies about all of the fuses. They are of the open-link type, either in round or rectangular porcelain boxes. Some contractors show a preference for the British "thumb-grip" type or the German "Z" type plug fuse, but the more attractive price of the open link gives this type a decided advantage. American fuses are considered too expensive.

Electric meters are installed for each individual consumer of electricity regardless of the type of installation. The lighting company will not connect the installation without a meter. For dwellings a 5-ampere meter is invariably installed. For offices and factories meters of either 10 or 15 amperes are connected.

Since practically all buildings in Egypt are constructed of stone or reinforced cement, armoured cable or any other special form of conductor is not required in old dwellings. The fire hazard, even in the most densely populated and oldest sections of the Egyptian cities, is small.

As exposed wiring is the common practice of this country, it is not difficult to wire buildings after they have been built. In fact, almost all wiring installations are put into buildings after they are finished.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Condensers. The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invite tenders for condensers.—February 26.

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Port and Lighthouses Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of various stores, comprising paints (mixed and in powder), varnishes, oils (boiled and raw linseed, bicycle, colza, clock, etc.), shellac, coal, and wood tar, tallow, soap, etc. March 6. (D.O.T.)

Filter.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a mechanical filter, complete with accessories and necessary foundations, and also the supply of material for two existing filters. March 16. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing and necessaries required for the Egyptian Police and Ghafir Services during 1925. The principal requirements include woollen blankets, ankle boots, chevrons, non-inflammable shirt collars, cotton shirts and drawers, cotton gloves, cotton and woollen socks, uniforms, boot blacking, heel-balls and palm-oil soap. Tenders will be received by the Director of Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, up to March 28. (D.O.T.)

The arrival of 1,000 bales of cotton from Turkey was celebrated at a luncheon in Manchester last Friday.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 20 amounted to £E10,112, making the total from April 1 £E290,658.

The Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury have appointed Lord Bradbury of Winsford, G.C.B., to be an *ex-officio* director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in the place of Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., who has resigned.

It is stated (says a Reuter message from Bucharest dated February 7) that Germany having refused to recognise the rights of Roumania to special reparations not embodied in the Dawes Scheme, the Roumanian Government intends to order the liquidation and confiscation of German property in Roumania, the introduction of a 26 per cent. ad valorem tax on German goods, in conformity with the Treaty of Versailles, and the application to them of a triple-rate gold tariff. The Press generally censures Germany's uncompromising attitude, which has led to such measures being taken.

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Company Meeting.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED.

A Satisfactory Year: Marked Increase in Advances.

The sixty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., was held on February 6 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

Mr. J. Beaumont Pease (Chairman) was unable to be present on account of indisposition, and the speech which he had prepared was read by the Deputy-Chairman, Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., who presided.

Mr. Pease's speech contained the following passages:—

In reviewing the events of the past year, the matter of chief importance to ourselves is the balance-sheet and report, which to-day we present to you, and in them I think you will find indications of the general trend of events. May I ask you to consider them with me for a moment?

Our deposits remain at practically the same figure of £340,000,000 and the acceptances show an increase of £3,500,000, but the chief alterations in our figures are to be found on the other side of the balance-sheet. In common with other banks, our advances show a marked increase. In our case it is no less than £23,300,000, and the proportion of our advances to deposits has risen in the year from 41.6 per cent. to 48.2 per cent

Large as is this increase, the proportion is still considerably below that which ruled in the years before the war. It may be interesting to you to be reminded that the highest point reached in the four years commencing with 1911 was 59 per cent., 59.6 per cent., 60.3 per cent., and 58 per cent. respectively. There is a considerable way, therefore, yet to go before we reach pre-war proportions, and, in my opinion, we are justified in assuming that we are in a position to meet any demands for financial assistance which increased activity in trade is likely to make upon us.

Increased Profits.

None the less, the increase shown last year is considerable, and is largely responsible for the fact that we have been able to earn greater profits. If we take the figures of the last three years we see that our advances have increased from £123,000,000 to £164,000,000, a rise of no less than £41,000,000, while our deposits have increased to the extent of £10,000,000. To provide the wherewithal to meet the increased accommodation to the public during the last year, we have realised investments to the extent of £22,000,000 and have let our bills run off to the extent of £10,500,000. These realisations, together with our increased deposits, have enabled us not only to find the money necessary to meet increased demands for advances, but also to increase our cash to the extent of nearly £4,000,000 and our cash at call to the extent of nearly £6,000,000. The result has been, as I have already stated, that our profits are larger, as we have employed our money more profitably, and the profit figure we present to you to-day exceeds that of last year by £421,800. Incidentally, too, I may mention that the sales of investments which we have effected have also yielded substantial profits, but these we have not brought into our profit and loss figures, preferring the more conservative method of keeping them in our internal reserves. It is not necessary for me to point out to you that they are by no means lost there, but internal reserves are of a somewhat shy disposition and do not like exposing themselves to the public gaze. They are safely there, however, employed in the business, ready for any emergency, earning you extra profits, and, subject to any possible calls upon them in the future, are as much your property as the capital or published reserves. Our holdings in our affiliated banks remain at practically the same figure as last year, and I am happy to tell you that, in the case of all of them, last year proved to be a profitable and satisfactory one.

You will have seen from the report our proposals as to the distribution of our profits. We have at our disposition a figure of £2,972,857 15s. 2d., which includes the sum of £503,923 0s. 5d. brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend absorbed £928,253 8s. 2d., we have placed £250,000 to bank premises account, £250,000 to the staff superannuation fund, and £100,000 to the staff widows' and orphans' fund. The final dividend which we now recommend amounts to £928,253 8s. 2d., and we shall have left over to be carried to the new account £516,350 18s. 10d. some £12,000 more than we brought in.

Now, from all these figures you would naturally and correctly gather that trade has been on the upgrade trend. Last year I ventured to say that signs were not wanting to suggest that this would be the case. But I should have been a bold man if I had attempted to forecast all that 1924 had in store for us. It may well be that historians will look back on the tenth anniversary of the war as the first that showed any indications of a real peace. If in future it becomes known as the year of reconciliation, it will be because, after all the previous fumblings and failures of statesmanship, the simple common-sense suggestion of the year before to discover by an impartial commission of economic experts, working under American auspices, the exact ability of Germany to pay reparations, and the precise manner in which she should pay them, was at length acted upon

The Dawes Report.

The Dawes Report was produced on April 10 and accepted by the Reparations Commission. In July the London Conference succeeded in establishing a harmony which had long ceased to exist between the Allies, adopted the recommendations, and set up a series of mixed committees to carry them into effect. I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating both our colleague, Mr. Bell, and ourselves on the fact that he has been chosen to sit on what is called the Transfer Committee, with the responsibility, among other highly important duties, of determining the methods by which the reparation payments made in marks can be converted into foreign currencies. I regard the adoption of this report as the outstanding event of the year, and as an indication of a real return to sanity on the part of the nations involved. It constitutes the chief practical attempt we have yet seen to sweep up and tidy into heaps the litter caused by the war. It created a new enthusiasm and was undoubtedly largely responsible for the greater feeling of optimism observable in the latter half of 1924.

Before I refer to some of the other events in the tidying process, I would like to examine shortly some of the criticisms raised against the Dawes Report itself. They are aimed from different angles. On the one hand it is feared that, without a complete moratorium of several years for Germany, even after due allowance has been made for the effect of the German loan, which was an integral part of the scheme, it may break down in the initial stages. On the other hand, the natural prejudice against a loan to an

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ex enemy was combined with the fear lest a rehabilitated Germany would constitute a serious competitive menace to our own industrialists. Time alone will show whether the experts erred on the side of optimism in believing that, with the proceeds of the loan and the interest on German Railway bonds, etc., Germany would be able to meet the cost of the armies of occupation, deliveries in kind and similar liabilities, without encroaching on any revenue from the ordinary Budget in the first two years. But even if this does not prove to be possible it should not necessarily involve the breakdown of the whole scheme, for there is a provision against the possibility of a default arising, if it is unavoidable and not due to bad faith on the part of Germany.

In regard to the other criticism, the public of all the Allied nations took a broad and, I believe, a statesmanlike view. They argued, as the experts themselves have stated, that "the reconstruction of Germany is not an end in itself. It is only part of the larger problem of the reconstruction of Europe," and the issue of the loan was a triumphant success. The competitive advantage in international trade which Germany now has, owing to the fact that her internal debt has been practically wiped out by inflation, will be largely counterbalanced by the increased taxes and charges on industry which will have to be levied to provide reparation payments.

Effects on British Trade.

With the stabilisation of her currency, one of the competitive advantages will disappear, while the receipt by us of German reparation payments, whether in kind or cash, although it may temporarily depress some of our export industries, will increase the real income of our people generally, and therefore add to the purchasing power of our home markets. It must also be remembered that German imports at present largely exceed her exports, and there is still a long way to go before her exports reach their pre-war level, and any disadvantage which we may suffer from her competition will, in my opinion, be more than counterbalanced by the beneficial results of a revival of international trade which the Dawes scheme is likely to bring about. I trust that it is not too much to hope that the economic regeneration of Europe has now definitely commenced. The example of the help given to Austria has been followed by similar aids to Hungary, Czecho Slovakia, and Greece.

At home, also, we have seen various favourable features: 130,000 persons formerly unemployed have last year found work, and this increase to the ranks of the employed follows after the larger figure of the previous year of 300,000. It has been computed that at the modest valuation of their production at £4 a week, this means that the country is adding to the national income at the rate of about £100,000,000 a year, as compared with the position two years ago.

You have seen the increased figures of the loans to trade by this and other banks, and the discount houses report a much larger proportion of commercial bills in their portfolios, while the London Bankers' Clearing House discloses an expansion of £2,600,000,000 in its turnover.

All these features in the past year are cheering signs, and I do not wish to end this catalogue on a note of depression, but I should be failing in my duty if I did not utter a word of serious warning. Much yet remains to be done. Political uncertainties and industrial strife may wreck the most hopeful plans. The most fruitful soil may be robbed of its harvest by accident or lack of hard work and attention. Here at home we have every prospect of stability in political affairs, but it is not possible to say the same of all other countries on the Continent, while in the industrial world there are threatenings of disturbances which may retard indefinitely the process of recovery from the ills of the war. It should be the endeavour of all men of good will to do each what he can in restoring the sick world to health again. After the favourable symptoms to which I have alluded, it would be a thousand pities if there were any serious set-back.

I have already mentioned the stabilisation of German currency, which is one of the objects of the Dawes scheme, and the question generally of exchanges has been a matter of special interest during last year. Fluctuations and uncertainty in exchanges, in spite of the assitance which banks give in their forward exchange operations with the object of preventing speculation in exchanges, are among the chief obstacles to a recovery of international trade, and important steps have been taken recently to minimise this serious disadvantage.

I cannot conclude without alluding to the fact that this is the first time we have met in London for our annual meeting. I indicated last year that, in spite of the feelings of sentiment attaching to the city of our birth, we felt that, in the interest of convenience and economy to the business, it was desirable that the annual meeting should take place in London. I am glad to see several of our friends from Birmingham here to support us as usual, and I would like to express the hope that in all our future meetings I shall be in a position to present to you an equally satisfactory balance-sheet to the one you have in your hands.

The Deputy-Chairman moved: "That the report just taken as read be received and adopted, and that, in accordance with the recommendation of the directors therein, a dividend for the half-year ended December 31 last of 1s. 8d. per share, being at the rate of 16 2-3 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the company, be declared, such dividend to be payable on and after February 7, less income-tax."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. C. E. Barnett and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Co. were reappointed auditors for the year 1925; and after votes of thanks to the directors for their services, to the joint general managers and staff for their excellent work, and to the chairman for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

NEW ELLERMAN LINES' STEAMER.

The single-screw steamer Rydal Hall, built by Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Co., Ltd., for the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., carried out successful trials in the Firth of Clyde on the 29th ult., when a mean speed of 13 knots was attained. The vessel is 416 ft. 6 in. long by 54 ft. 9 in. beam by 32 ft. deep, has a gross tonnage of 7,000, and a d.w. carrying capacity of 10,000.

She is a thoroughly up-to-date cargo carrier, with large open hatches and long erections, has a very complete installation of winches and derricks, serving large-sized hatches for dealing with bulky cargo, and the poop has been arranged specially high for the stowage of machinery.

The propelling machinery consists of one set of triple-expansion engines, having cylinders 23½ in., 40½ in., 71 in. by 48 in. stroke, constructed at the builders' Stobcross Engineering Works, steam being supplied by two single-ended boilers fitted with superheaters and Howden's forced draught. It is of interest to note that this vessel is the forty-seventh constructed by Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Co., Ltd., for this company.

The Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants announces that the whole of the outstanding bonds of the Five per Cent. Sterling Loan, due to be redeemed February 1, 1925, will be paid off forthwith. The bonds, with coupon No. 31 attached, are payable in London by Messrs. Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, E.C., also at the Bank of Athens and its branches. Coupon No. 30, representing the half-year's interest due February 1, 1925, will be paid forthwith at either of the above offices.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Erratic Tendency in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended January 29, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very erratic; at the close a weaker tendency developed. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $1.40 up for March; $1.15 up for May, $0.80 up for July, $0.10 down for November. Ashmouni : $1.62 down for February, $1.35 down for April, $1.45 down for June, $0.25 down for October.

The Sakel market has again been subjected to wide fluctuations, and March, after touching $64.50, closes at $60.25. The bulk of the business transacted has been of a speculative character, and the trade, for the time being, appears to be almost totally absent from the market, the prevailing high prices having killed the demand. Egyptians in Liverpool have more or less followed our fluctuations; they are still quoted at a heavy discount in comparison to Alexandria prices. At the third January tender 1,500 krs. dockets were issued. The total quantity of cotton tendered against January contracts is 3,000 krs. The smallness of these tenders, in spite of the discount of $3 from January to March, testifies to the strength of the position from a statistical point of view. The Ashmouni market has also fluctuated fairly sharply, and February, after reaching $36.40, has reacted to $34.10. The demand from abroad for this variety has been fair, but there are rumours that heavy dockets will be issued against February contracts, and this has adversely influenced the position. With New York at 23.70, present prices may look dear, but the cotton is firmly held, and the future course of prices will depend on those of the competing varieties in the leading distributing centres.

The stock in Alexandria of all varieties stands now at $1\frac{7}{8}$ million krs., and we estimate the remaining quantity in the interior at about $1\frac{1}{8}$ million kantars. This gives us a total supply for the remaining seven months of the season of about 3 million kantars. We would point out that the quantity of cotton shipped last year during the period February to end August was about $2\frac{5}{8}$ million kantars, and the present stocks of Egyptian abroad are about $\frac{3}{4}$ million kantars less than at the same date last year. Transactions in new crops have been rather scarce, and have consisted mainly again of straddles between November and October. The week's receipts amount to 150,504 krs., against exports 231,569 krs.; the stock stands at 1,891,670 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of quiet markets at Minet el Bassal. Demand from abroad has fallen away considerably and is very moderate. Sales for the week amount to about 19,100 bales, of which we estimate 7,400 bales Sakel, 7,500 bales Uppers, 3,850 bales Zagora, 100 bales Brown, 150 bales Pilion, and 100 bales White.

Sakellaridis has met with a very moderate inquiry, mainly for the better grades. A small inquiry has, however, been met with for very low cotton. Medium qualities are very much neglected. Spot parities are generally a little cheaper.

Uppers and Zagora Lower Egypt continue in fairly good demand, principally for medium and good grades. Spot parities are without much change, though the lower grades are not so readily or cheaply offered as last week. Extra qualities have met with a good demand at high premiums.

Pilion.—A moderate business has been done. Spot premiums are unchanged except for Good and better, which are rather stiffer.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot premiums are generally rather dearer.

White has been in limited request. Spot parities have weakened somewhat.

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COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Outlook Rather Better.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended February 7 states :—

A somewhat more cheerful tone has prevailed this week. Business is still very restricted, but there has been a larger volume of inquiry, and in some quarters it is reported that more actual orders have been booked than during the weeks immediately preceding.

Yarn.—In American yarns a little more activity has been displayed, chiefly, however, in those counts of which makers were already fairly well employed. The experience of various mills has therefore differed considerably, and some are finding it difficult to discover sufficient outlet to keep pace with their production. It is expected that the ballot now in progress will result in the necessary majority being obtained in favour of shorter working hours. Egyptian spinnings are still adversely affected by the prohibitive price of the raw staple, the quotation for which has again materially increased.

Cloth.—Nothing more than a mixed inquiry for small lots can be reported. The demand from both India and China has been disappointing, though a little more has been done for the latter than recently. A fair number of transactions have been carried through for Egypt and the Levant, and South America has not been altogether idle. The Home trade has been featureless.

Raw Cotton.—In American a firmer tendency has been noticeable. "Spot" sales have been rather larger. Egyptian has again been a very strong market, and prices are higher by no less than 2.75d. on the week. Quotations for the later months of this year, however, show a very big discount on those for near delivery, and this situation, of course, entails considerable risk. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 13.28; Egyptian Full Good Fair, 34.50.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Inquiry on Good Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 4 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A fair inquiry has been witnessed during the past week, and spot sales have averaged roughly 400 bales per diem. Sakel, Upper, and Pilion have all been in request, and the feature of the week has been the further widening to a marked extent of the difference between Sakel and Uppers. The high prices ruling have tempted speculators and importers to take profits, and in Sakel, as well as in Uppers, considerable irregularity prevails, but it is most noticeable in the Upper market. It had been generally anticipated that any rise in the price of American cotton would be at once reflected in the price of Uppers. Just the opposite has occurred, however. This week, after a long period of quiescence, the American markets have all displayed distinct "bullish" tendency, and Uppers, instead of responding, have actually eased. In our opinion, this weakness is not likely to last very long. The cheaper cotton will move out of sight very rapidly, and the remainder will probably command higher prices than those ruling to-day.

In Sakels we find history repeating itself. Spinners are experimenting with the lower grades of cotton, many of which contain just as good staple as the better grades. Quite a fair business is now taking place in the recently despised "low cotton" at between 19.00d. and 20.00d. Basing our views on past experience, we expect the demand will slowly but surely work upwards as cotton goes out of sight. At the other end of the scale, Strict Good Fair cotton and Fully Good Fair is in steady demand at from about 32.50d. to 34.00d. Beyond the latter figure business is practically nil. A few spinners are still keeping in close touch with the Fine Sakel market, but the prices of this style of cotton are based almost in every case on the Alexandria market, and the result is prohibitive.

In Pilion a small, steady business persists, but prices have to be cut considerably in order to trade. Sudan has been neglected. Slightly more inquiry has been seen for Brown and White cotton. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 30th ult. were returned as 12,062 bales. Estimated sales, 2,000 bales Egyptians and 150 Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper have been reduced 40 points, but those of Sakellaridis have been advanced 100 points for Fair, 180 for Good Fair, 190 for Fully Good Fair, and 215 points for Good, Fine, and Extra Fine. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day 33.65d.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at November 30, 1924, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes :—Banking Department. — Liabilities : Share capital, £E2,925,000 (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each); reserve fund : statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E804,375; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E15,026,503; Egyptian Government, £E17,288,795; Sudan Government, £E236,316; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,496,862; bankers' accounts, £E511,156; cheques and bills payable, £E656,763; sundry other accounts, £E1,051,481—£E41,459,751. Assets : Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E20,568,821; sundry securities, £E256,519; advances on merchandise, £E2,169,160; advances on securities, £E2,914,649; advances otherwise secured, £E528,995; sundry other advances, £E950,069; bills of exchange, £E4,852,864; local bills discounted, £E235,376; buildings and furniture, £E277,553; money at call and at short notice, £E1,457,625; bankers' accounts, £E4,545,952; sundry other accounts, £E441,731. Cash : Notes, £E1,939,425; gold, £E29,524; silver, nickel, etc., £E291,488—£E2,260,437—£E41,459,751. Issue Department. —Notes issued, £E42,000,000—£E42,000,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E17,660,424—£E21,000,000; securities : Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,576; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E20,579,424—£E21,000,000—£E42,000,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

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, February 23). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Modasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 13); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 13).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, February 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mongolia for Bombay (London, February 13); s.s. Narkunda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 20).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout. (London, March 4).

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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
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Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 — Reserve Fund £2,750,000

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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Board of Directors:

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
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Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 719—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Mosul Difficulty.

The tenacity with which the Turkish Government has clung to its Mosul claim is undoubtedly inspired more by economic considerations than by political motives or national feeling. It has unfortunately been encouraged by a British group to believe that, if the Mosul Vilayet were allocated to Turkey, the oilfields could be made the subject of a fresh deal, with immediate advantage to the Republic; and to secure this end it is prepared to make the widest possible concessions in other directions. Should the verdict of the League of Nations' Commission be unfavourable to Turkey, the disappointment felt will have nothing to do with any sense of racial kinship to a handful of Kurds, but will turn on the loss of what is regarded as an invaluable bargaining-counter and a source of possibly untold wealth. It would make for better relations between Turkey and Great Britain if by some means the edge could be taken off Turkish disappointment. The Republic is in a vicious circle; it cannot obtain a loan until it begins to meet its obligations, and it cannot meet its obligations until it obtains a loan. To cut this circle, to the advantage of Anglo-Turkish relations, should not prove beyond the capacity of British statesmanship.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

The Greek Government has made its formal appeal to the League of Nations on the subject of the expulsion of the Patriarch from Constantinople, basing its action on Article XI. of the Covenant, which empowers members of the League to bring to the attention of the Council any circumstance affecting international relations "which threatens to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends." On this point Turkey's attitude would seem to be that the expulsion of the Patriarch is a matter of internal routine which does not constitute a menace to the world's peace. If the Turkish Government should decline to send a representative to the Council meeting in March, it is not clear what steps the League can take in view of the fact that no disturbance of the peace had resulted. A more hopeful issue to the controversy is promised by direct negotiations between Greece and Turkey. At present informal discussions are taking place in Constantinople between representatives of the two countries, and it is an earnest of a practical solution that the official communication of the Greek Government to Turkey is couched in moderate and correct terms. A certain amount of the ill-feeling created has been due to inaccurate statements in the Press of what took place at Lausanne, when the Turkish delegation merely withdrew its claim for the expulsion of the Patriarchate without committing itself in any way on the subject of exchangeability.

Italy and Albania.

The Italian Government is understood to have manifested some uneasiness over the prospect of a concession being granted in Albania to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. If the concession entailed anything in the nature of an oil monopoly in Albania, there might be some ground for an Italian protest, but exception can hardly be taken with any justification to an ordinary grant of exclusive rights over a certain limited area, as we may suppose the Anglo-Persian Company's concession to be. Italy can always count upon a sympathetic appreciation in Great Britain of her position in regard to Albania. She has pledged herself by a self-denying ordinance not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, but she cannot allow another Power to occupy a position that she has voluntarily evacuated. There is, however, not the least risk that Great Britain will ever aspire to that position. On the other hand, Italy is concerned to see Albania become a peaceful and progressive State, and, as she cannot take an active part in the process without incurring the resentment of Yugoslavia, it is to her interest that the Albanians should turn for help to the nationals of the one country whose attitude towards Albania is above suspicion. Thus we may hope that not only will the successful exploitation of oil by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company promote the material progress of Albania, but that the employment of Englishmen as officials of the Albanian Government will also tend to the speedier introduction of order and good administration in the country.

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Macedonia Again.

Another murder in Sofia will have still further alienated foreign sympathy from the Macedonian cause. The victim on this last occasion was M. Mileff, Minister-Designate in Washington, who was also connected with a semi-official newspaper in Sofia. Again the murderer escaped, but it is believed that the crime is connected with the internal quarrels of the Macedonian Organisation, which came to a head last August with the murder of the leader, Todor Alexandroff. Several assassinations followed in Bulgaria, but the crowning act of revenge was not accomplished until Peter Chaüleff was killed last December in Milan by order of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation. He had parted company from Alexandroff and Protoguéroff, because he favoured Soviet support, and, indeed, had been in receipt of Soviet funds. The murder of Alexandroff shortly after a quarrel between the leaders on this subject was laid at the door of Chaüleff, and his death was accordingly decreed. The next important stage in the vendetta is the death of Mileff. In this way it can be only a matter of time before the Macedonian question solves itself. Unfortunately no one seems available to direct the Macedonians to a better policy. The younger generation, who should be benefiting by contact with the outside world at the Universities of Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and Leipzig, seem only capable of fanning the flames of hatred and egging on their hapless compatriots to further acts of self-extermination.

The Yugoslav Elections.

In spite of the order maintained on election day in Yugoslavia, it is to be feared that there will be much recrimination over what happened during the electoral campaign. On this subject British standards form no criterion by which to pass judgment on what takes place in Yugoslavia. In a letter from Zagreb published in this issue the Croat version of the conduct of the elections is given without comment by our correspondent. The Serbian reply will no doubt be given in due course. Here we need only draw attention to the risk of allowing party passions free rein at election time. It is quite possible that any of the alleged excesses could have happened spontaneously at any given spot as a result of the high feeling prevailing: but every misdemeanour is at once attributed to Government inspiration or Government orders. If, therefore, any Balkan Government wishes to avoid the charge of making or "terrorising" elections, it must exercise severe control over its followers, and, above all, its officials.

Lord Balfour's Visit to Palestine.

It was inevitable that the Arab community in Palestine, or at least the Arab Executive, should declare a strike on the occasion of Lord Balfour's visit to Jerusalem to open the Hebrew University. In the circumstances it may be an open question whether the author of the "Balfour Declaration," which has served as the starting-point for Arab-Jew hostility, has been well advised to fan anew the gradually cooling fires of that hostility. Lord Balfour can with some justification claim to be an innocent party. The trouble that has arisen has been due less to the Declaration than to what the Jews affected to read into it and the Arabs' fears of this comprehensive interpretation. The Arabs will feel called upon to mark their disapproval of the author of the Declaration, and the Jews may consider it their duty to mark their disapproval of the discourtesy shown to their guest, with the result that there may be a regrettable setback to the *rapprochement* that unofficially, if not officially, had shown signs of beginning. On the other hand, it can be argued that the Declaration stands; the British Government has shown that it does not mean all that the Jews tried to read into it, nor all that the Arabs imagined from the tenour of Jewish statements that it must mean; therefore, there was no reason for Lord Balfour to deny himself the pleasure of being present at a ceremony which must make a strong personal appeal to him. Certainly an Arab "strike," however much it may satisfy the *amour propre* of the Executive Committee, will impress no one else favourably. The Arabs would be better advised to accord the author of the Declaration a special reception, in order to have the best possible setting for a full-dress statement of their case. Unfortunately, the Arab Executive has never once shown the least glimmering of political intelligence, much less of statesmanship.

Hobson's Choice in Persia.

Riza Khan, Persia's Prime Minister, and one strong man, in a peremptory message to the Mejliss, has recalled the words of the Preacher that a living dog is better than a dead lion, and has bidden that Assembly to make choice, as it were, between the two. For the official Lion of Persia, in the person of the Shah, who displays a youthful weakness for the fleshpots of France in preference to the politics of Persia, might be dead as far as any benefits that his own country derives from his existence are concerned, whereas the Sardar Sepah is very much alive. He has recently returned from a successful expedition, or series of expeditions, in the course of which he brought to book all those who had previously challenged his authority, followed up by a pilgrimage to the chief Shiah shrines of Iraq. Back in Teheran, he finds himself thwarted in the beneficent reforms that he has planned for the country by the active or passive resistance of the Valiahd, or Heir-Presumptive, who is acting as Regent in the Shah's absence. He has, therefore, called upon the Mejliss to free him from all arbitrary interference on the part of the Shah or the Valiahd, and the demand has promptly been satisfied. Whether this implies that Riza Khan is reverting by a more devious route to the idea of a republic for Persia, which he was obliged to abandon a year ago owing to the opposition of the Ulema, remains to be seen. He has already done more for his country than any other man of his generation, but his régime cannot yet be said to have educated public opinion to an adequate appreciation of good government. The people will no doubt reflect that any progress made by the country is faithfully reflected in the progress of the Sardar Sepah's personal fortunes, and may be tempted to draw the moral that it is better to be strong than merely good. The elimination of Riza Khan at this stage, however, must of necessity be a misfortune for Persia, and it is to be hoped that he will remain long enough to evolve a form of ordered government that will be able to carry on with its own momentum when the original motive power has been withdrawn.

THE YEMEN INFANTRY.

The following Reuter message from Delhi, dated February 13, will cause regret, though not surprise, to many British visitors to Aden:—"The Yemen Infantry, an Arab force under British officers, which was raised during the War for service in the Aden territory, has been disbanded. It has proved inefficient from a military point of view, and some of its men were concerned in the murder of Lieut. Lawrence a few months ago."

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Weir Houses.

For some weeks now the talk of the third-class railway carriage has been raging round the question of steel houses, or, as they should more accurately be called, the Weir houses. I have not yet seen one of these constructions, but I understand that they are wooden dwellings with steel sheets for the outer lining of the wall. Their value, if they have any, is, as I see it, rather as a supplement to the ordinary brick house than as a substitute for it. But the reason that they have come so much into the public eye is because the trade unions and the Labour Party have declared war upon them.

The other day in Parliament, which has as yet scarcely settled down to real business, there was a debate on the Weir house. Very little was to be gained from it, except the fact, which everybody previously knew, that the Labour Party cares more for trade unionism than for the practical needs of the class which it is supposed primarily to represent. The whole point about this housing problem is that unless there is found an alternative to the brick house, the poor and wretched of this country will have to go unhoused for yet another generation.

The Political Levy.

A great to-do is now being made in the Conservative and Liberal Press over the political levy, which, willy-nilly, the trade unionist is compelled to pay. The highest sort of political morality is being doled out to us in very large spoons; and, of course, the thing is rather iniquitous. But what else could be done by those who wish to return people of their own kidney? Elections cost money, and impecunious men must be provided with the means to fight their wealthier opponents. Do away with the political levy, and to a great extent you make the House of Commons once more a preserve of the rich. It is a fact, moreover, that trade unionists do not commonly feel this violation of their political liberties that the virtuous Liberals and Tories say that they ought to feel. And if they do not complain, what is the use of raising a fuss? It may drive popularity from the Labour Party in the House, but it will assuredly fly out of Westminster to repose more surely in the country.

Territorials.

It used to be a jest (not, of course, during the War, but before it), not wholly unjustified, that the Territorials were soldiers playing at war. Everybody knows that their weekly drills and a fortnight's camping once a year were in the interests of "home defence" only. Now, however, confirmation has been made of the policy which Mr. Churchill proclaimed in 1920. In future the Territorials are to be the reservoir from which, in time of war, the regulars will be expanded. In other words, we shall not see a simultaneous or rival appearance of new "Kitchener Armies" and "Terrier Armies." This simpler plan ought to be the better.

War seems very distant, however. Yet it is well to remember that the new Territorials have in effect to fulfil the obligations of the regulars for overseas service. It will be interesting to see whether any difference in the constitution of the Territorial Army will be noticeable.

Railways and Roads.

This year is the centenary of railways. The occasion is bound to focus attention upon the competition between the railroad and the road. Actually, of course, the rail-line is but a form of road, and in a properly regulated society the one would be in happy supplement or complement to the other. But with us, who for a time deified the railway and allowed our roads to decay, the case has assumed the nature of a strife. On one side the matter is fairly clear: the railways cannot develop very much farther. Our road policy, on the other hand, is capable of almost infinite changes, and the advent of the petrol engine has made a new road policy an absolute necessity. As yet we are still groping after a policy, hesitating whether it is worth while to spend millions on perfecting our roads. It appears to be thought that something, like the aeroplane or the airship, will make roads of subordinate importance. For myself, I do not think so; and I incline to the belief, which I heard Mr. Belloc recently suggest, that civilisation may be judged by the roads which they produced.

Cruft's and the Woman.

It was as fine an exhibition as ever that the organisers of Cruft's Dog Show at Islington put up last week, but one thing more than any struck one: the hold which women now have in the breeding of pedigree dogs. Certainly there might be no harm in that—the sight of a woman who is an out-of-doors mistress of a fine dog is a sight indeed. But it contains one danger, and that is that this breeding is likely, as is everything else, to be subject to whim and fashion. The modern woman, who once loved the little terrier or the fawning spaniel or the drawing-room midget, now plumps for Alsatians and Irish wolfhounds. Heaven knows that this reaction from the decorative creature that barked and snarled from the feminine bosom is a healthy one, but, all the same, one feels that there may be something wrong in the hodiernal adoration of thews and sinews. It's all a sign of the times, one supposes; and, in any case, even in England, an Alsatian is more suitable a creature than a snappy "toy."

Twickenham.

The luck of Twickenham, of which so much tosh is always written before international Rugby matches, more or less came to an end on Saturday, when Ireland drew with England, each side scoring two tries. It was not a great match, but it was a very good fight. The defensive play of both fifteens was extremely efficient, but the handling was of the sort which would have made the All Blacks weep. Yet the last onrush of the English forwards was a thing to remember; the pluck with which the Irish went down to it was enormous. On the whole, the result was a fair one.

Bardsey Island.

One of the most pathetic results of the continued gales from which we have been lately suffering is the surrender to the elements of Bardsey Island, off the Welsh coast. This tiny island, which, in the heyday of Christian history, the thirteenth century, played a very important part in the reli-

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gious life of the country, having an abbey to itself and boasting the bones of hundreds of distinguished monks, has gradually declined in popular esteem until there were but fifty people left there. It had no "wireless," no cinema—nothing, in fact, of that which the modern intelligence yearns for. And so, leaving the whole place, lock, stock, and barrel, to the birds and the sheep and the lighthouse keepers, the inhabitants have moved *en bloc* to the mainland. Perhaps, after a time, the ghost of some monks will call them back. Can it be that our fathers, whose winters were surely sometimes as wild as is this one, were of tougher stuff than is this generation?

Women Artists.

The Society of Women Artists are holding their seventieth exhibition at the Galleries of the Royal Institute, Piccadilly. It completely represents the artistic activities of a certain type of woman: I mean the faithful, industrious, and skilful woman. There are paintings here and sculpture, and many representations of the various crafts. But it is all a little dull. Imagination does not shine from these walls; the whole show is impregnated with the principle of "safety first." One sighs for a Laura Knight or an Ethel Walker.

The truth is, I suppose, that there are in this world far too many people who can do a thing very well indeed, and all too few who can do it surpassingly well. Although why the former should always take themselves so much more seriously than the latter is one of those things that may be revealed to babes, but which is certainly hidden from the normal observer.

London Plays.

"St. Joan" still stands out head and shoulders above any play now running; I am not sure yet whether it is a really great, but certainly it is a big, play. Compared with it, practically all the rest are so much kittle-kattle. We are on the crest, apparently, of a wave of social comedies or tragedies, by which is meant the taking of abnormal, unhealthy, and vastly depressing types of modern neurasthenics or wantons and the putting into their mouths of vapid audacities. The movement in this direction has even gone so far as for the less responsible of the critics to cry out that we have in it an up to date version of the "Restoration" period. Fortunately for our reputation, a certain proportion of these baneful affairs have reached London theatres only because they were first successes in New York or some other American home of cheap culture.

For the rest, a jolly revue or two, the revival (how bold our managers are in their despair!) of a musical comedy or two, and one or two funny plays that depend more upon acting than upon their contexts. In other words, rather above the average.

ALTER EGO.

The Haifa Technical College was opened by Sir Alfred Mond on February 9.

Major R. T. Little, Commissioner for the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley last year, has been appointed by the Palestine Government to the same office for 1925.

Under the joint auspices of the Brondesbury and Cricklewood Keren Hayesod Association and the Hampstead Keren Hayesod Committee, a film, entitled "The Land of Promise," was shown at the Maida Vale Picture House, Maida Vale, N.W.6, last Sunday. The film gives a delightful pictorial survey of Jewish life and work in Palestine and of the achievements of the Jewish pioneers in the building of the Jewish National Home. This form of propaganda should prove a great asset in the task of collecting financial support for the Keren Hayesod (Foundation Fund), and the scenes portrayed will doubtless result in an increase of both visitors and pioneers (Chalutzim) to "the land of Promise." Both Mr. J. Prag and Miss Janet Franklin made a moving appeal in support of the Fund.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught have left Calcutta for Rangoon.

Youssouf Hikmet Bey has been appointed Counsellor at the Turkish Legation.

Shumiatsky, the Soviet diplomatic representative in Persia, has returned to Teheran after a visit to Russia.

Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, arrived at Delhi last Sunday evening in the aeroplane piloted by Mr. Alan Cobham.

The Bill appointing the Sardar Sipah to be Commander-in-Chief of the Persian Forces, removable by vote of the Mejliss [Parliament], has been passed.

Abdel Hamid Mustapha Pasha, the Egyptian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, died of apoplexy while taking part in a conference on February 11 at Cairo.

M. Mileff, manager of the semi-official Bulgarian newspaper *Slovo*, who was recently appointed Bulgarian Minister in Washington, was assassinated in Sofia last Friday.

A message from Patiala last week stated that the Maharaja's second son had met with a serious gunshot accident, necessitating the amputation of the right foot.

It is announced here that the third session of the Council of the Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Republics will be held in the first half of March at Tiflis.

M. Caclamanos last week began the preliminary negotiations with the Yugoslav Minister in Athens, M. Gavrilovitch, for the renewal of the Græco-Yugoslav Alliance. Both parties desire the conclusion of a new Treaty.

Mr. Nichamal Lekhral, an Indian commercial traveller employed by a firm of Indian merchants at Gibraltar, was returning by rail from Tetuan to Ceuta when a party of Moors in ambush fired at the train, and he was shot dead.

After a long discussion the Greek National Assembly on February 3 unanimously rejected the Geneva Protocol for the settlement of the Græco-Bulgarian minorities question. A resolution of confidence in the Government was adopted.

According to reports from Moscow, 67 people and 27,000 cattle and horses were frozen to death during the recent severe weather in Transcaucasia. Many persons are said to have been devoured by wolves, which were seen even in large towns such as Batoum and Kutais.

The Tranin motor-car expedition, which is making a journey across Africa from Konakry, in French Guinea, to Jibouti in French Somaliland, arrived recently at Khartoum. M. Tranin and his party had a difficult journey from El Fasher across the desert to Darfur and Kordofan.

The case between the Greek and British Governments in the matter of the concessions made at Jerusalem under the Turkish *régime* to M. Mavrommatis, which were subsequently repudiated by the British Government, was opened on February 10, before the Court of International Justice at The Hague.

In a statement to Press representatives before leaving Bucharest for a holiday, M. Horiguchi, the Japanese Minister to Roumania, declared that the Treaty recently signed between Soviet Russia and Japan could not affect in any way the ratification by Japan of the Treaty dealing with Bessarabia.

The new Albanian Government has asked for the withdrawal from the agenda of the next meeting of the League of Nations Council of its predecessor's request for an inquiry into disturbances alleged to have been organised from Yugoslavia territory, as it considers the late Government's accusations to be unfounded.

Ahmadiya Moslems in London propose to hold a meeting of protest against the stoning to death, after a trial for apostasy, of two members of the Ahmadiya community in Kabul. This action by the Afghan Government is described as "one of a series of barbarous murders of citizens on account of mere religious differences."

According to the *Morning Post* Belgrade correspondent, the Yugoslav Minister for Education, M. Pribitchevitch, has decided to close down the German classes in Yugoslav secondary schools because there are not sufficient pupils to warrant their existence. Moreover, the Yugoslav national minorities in Austria do not possess similar privileges.

The Postmaster-General announces that Press telegrams are now accepted between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m., for transmission to Turkey at the rate of 3d. per word, with a minimum charge of 10d. per telegram. The necessary cards of authority for sending such telegrams will be furnished on application to the Secretary, General Post Office, E.C.1.

Mr. Walter Sherratt, an amateur wireless enthusiast at Cowes, Isle of Wight, states at 1.40 last Saturday morning he received a direct message from G.H.Q. of Mosul, in Mesopotamia, and transmitted it by telephone to the person to whom the message was intended in England. Mr. Sherratt added that he and the person in Mosul have exchanged transmissions by wireless, getting messages very clearly.

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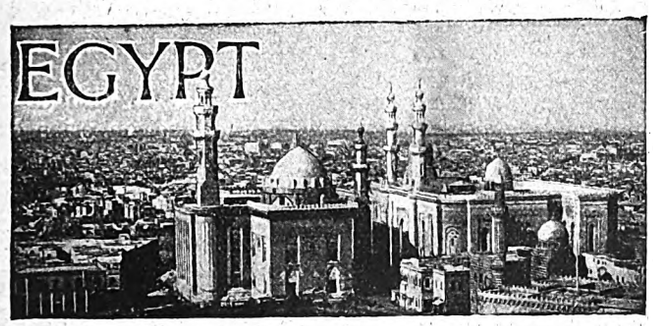
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, February 7.

The First-Degree Elections.

The first-degree elections took place on Wednesday last simultaneously throughout the country. With but one exception they gave rise to no incidents worthy of attention. At Mehalla-El-Kebir what was for all practical purposes an outbreak against authority was engineered by the Wafdist organisation, and it was only thanks to the prompt and energetic measures taken by the Government that it did not have more serious consequences.

If the Wafd wanted to create abroad an impression of popular irritation with the methods adopted by the Government, which it has so freely criticised, it could not have adopted a more stupid plan, for a display of disorderliness in one solitary election-centre out of a total of 90,000 can scarcely be regarded as a proof of general dissatisfaction with the way the elections are being organised and conducted. Rather is one confirmed by its isolated nature in the impression given by the character of the outbreak that, far from being spontaneous, it was deliberately organised.

As to the effect which these first-degree elections will have on the final election of deputies fixed for March 12, it is quite impossible to give even a forecast. Zaghloul Pasha himself, as well as several of his followers, have failed to secure election as electors-delegate. Various of the leading anti-Wafdists have, on the other hand, been successful. Both sides, however, shout victory, but neither can put forward definite proofs of the other's defeat, and it is useless for a layman to try to come to any even approximate conclusion.

Indeed, however much an elector-delegate may be regarded as carrying particular political colours, he cannot at this distance from the polling date be relied upon to vote for that party. One cannot forget that at the last elections men who had given their word to vote for a particular candidate went in the opposite direction when polling day arrived, while successful candidates themselves actually crossed over to join the party against which they had fought at the elections.

He would indeed be foolish who even on the eve of the polling ventured to make any prognostication in this country of surprises and paradoxes.

The Stack Inquiry.

Very satisfactory progress has been made in connection with the inquiry into the assassination of Sir Lee Stack. The arrest of the two students on their flight to the Tripoli frontier appears to have provided the link not only with this outrage but with several of its predecessors for which the authorities have been waiting; and it is expected that the investigation will now make rapid progress and enable the whole band to be brought to trial at an early date.

The work done by the police and public security authorities has indeed been most remarkable. The public has complained somewhat bitterly at the innumerable arrests followed by releases without evidence of any indication that the investigators were getting any nearer to the truth. In fact, only ten days ago the general tone in the clubs was one of despair, and criticism of those responsible for the inquiry was not sparing. What the public did not and could not of course know was that the authorities were waiting for certain plans to mature. For the success of these plans secrecy and patience were absolutely essential, but even to-day, although the investigation has undergone such considerable development, it is not possible to give all the details of the course which it has followed. There need, however, no longer be any lack of confidence in the results, and when it is possible to reveal exactly what has happened and how the murder-gang has been tracked down, it will, I am convinced, be generally agreed that the responsible authorities have accomplished a wonderful piece of detective and investigation work.

The Case of Mr. Anthony.

The acquittal of Mr. Anthony, the Director-General of State Domains, of the charges brought against him by the Wafdist Cabinet has given great satisfaction in all circles, although no other decision was expected, since all who knew him or had ever been in contact with him had never believed for one moment that there was any justification for these accusations.

There is, indeed, little doubt that the charges, which have now been unanimously disproved by the Mixed Council of Discipline, were merely framed to serve the policy of the Wafd by justifying the dismissal of an Under-Secretary who belonged to the opposition camp, and by lowering British prestige in the country.

I have heard the opinion freely expressed amongst Egyptians of all classes that the attitude adopted by the late Cabinet towards a man who, like Mr. Anthony, had for over thirty years rendered such honourable and faithful service was a

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Enquiry Office: CAIRO STATION. Tel. No. 6777.

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disgrace to the name of Egypt; but it is noteworthy that no Egyptian paper has had the decency to comment appropriately on this acquittal.

Mr. Anthony resumed his duties to-day, but it is not certain whether he will continue in the service of the Egyptian Government.

Zagreb, February 12.

The Yugoslav General Election.

In the last, short-lived Skupshtina the position was as follows: The majority in Parliament was decidedly in favour of M. Davidovitch's policy of agreement between Serbs and Croats. This policy was successful. Proof of that was that the Croatian Deputies once more put in appearance in the Skupshtina and took the Oath of Allegiance to King and Constitution.

But the Davidovitch majority had the grievous flaw that it was dependent for its existence upon M. Raditch's support. And M. Raditch proved an all but impossible ally. Whenever the Davidovitch Government was in for a particularly stiff struggle with the then Opposition, M. Raditch would promptly, with some ill-considered utterance, provide that Opposition with some powerful argument. And this process was regularly repeated, until at length one fine day the Minister for War tendered his resignation, and so opened up the Government crisis.

From this crisis the Opposition (the Radicals and their allies) emerged victorious, despite its minority. Supported by feeling in the army, and strong in its united front, it succeeded in obtaining the mandate for the General Election at the moment when the Davidovitch side made the mistake of refusing all compromise.

This solution of the crisis came as a surprise as great as the manner of its arising. The worst about it was that it was contrary to Parliamentary principle.

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Thus the country had an electoral campaign forced upon it. Books might be written about the fashion in which it was waged. The Radical Government was well aware that the greater part of the whole population was definitely opposed to it. Above all, it knew that Slovenia and Croatia would vote solid against it, and that its defeat was, therefore, other things being equal, a foregone conclusion. The problem was, how to prevent this defeat—at all costs. Not so much because Serbdom or the State was in danger—although these were in effect the election cries of the Government—as because the inevitable consequence of an Opposition victory would be the passing of the Anti-Corruption Law, and in that case the indictments of certain Radical ex-Ministers would likewise have been put to the vote in the Skupshtina. To prevent this, those in power staked their all on the very last card—political terror.

Election Making.

The first step was an attempt to discredit the Raditch Party by the charge of Bolshevism because of its adherence to the Moscow Peasant International—not the Third International. To this end the *Obznana* was launched against the party, and its leaders were imprisoned. Hereby the Government was presently to find itself in a quandary. The Court pronounced the charges brought by the police against the arrested Raditch partisans to be devoid of foundation, and demanded their immediate release. The Court of Appeal confirmed the finding of the lower instance, and decided that all the prisoners must be set at liberty at once. It should be noted, by the way, that Dr. Matchek was the Vice-President of the Skupshtina, and actually in receipt of his daily allowance as deputy; wherefore he was—or ought to have been—protected by his parliamentary immunity. In spite of this he is still in custody at this time of writing, although he was re-elected last Sunday.

After this set-back at the hands of the Courts, the Government could no longer proceed against the Raditch Party as it had hoped to do. The idea of wholesale arrests had to be dropped. A second scheme likewise miscarried, owing to the firmness of the Courts. All police orders to the effect that the electoral lists of the Raditch Party were pronounced illegal were invalidated by the Courts of law. The Opposition, too, did its part, and all Raditch adherents were made to realise that they must vote Opposition if so be that the Raditch lists failed to be put up. In these circumstances the Government had to reckon with the danger that in that case M. Davidovitch might score over one hundred mandates, and so found itself compelled to permit the Raditch lists. Other plans for breaking Croat opposition were attended by no better success, and so it seems to have been held necessary to make sure of its majority in the Serbian regions.

The Croat Version.

From this point I can merely give the version of the elections current in Croatia and Slovenia. Whether it is right in every or any particular will be known for certain only after a time. If it is accurate, the country is sure to hear more of the subject.

Measures to ensure a majority were adopted, above all, in South Serbia, where rougher methods are a more or less time-honoured custom. The Turks, united in the Jemiyet, so-called, who had scored a whole fourteen votes at the last election when they were the allies of the Radicals, were the first now to feel the heavy

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hand of the Government. Their Press was muzzled, their leaders were imprisoned along with Ferad Beg Draga. In vain the former Minister for Internal Affairs, M. Nastas Petrovitch, went to South Serbia in person. He achieved but little, and was himself made to feel the power of the Government. After the Turks, it was the Independent Radicals and the Agrarians (*Zemljoradnici*) who had to bear the brunt of the Government's displeasure, and who were quite unsuccessful, moreover, at the election. The Opposition rallied round the Democrats, who did comparatively well, though not as well as they might have done had they not suffered likewise from Government pressure—and, it may be added, from the persistent failure of the Opposition to achieve efficient unity of front.

As regards election terror, Bosnia and Herzegovina came next to South Serbia, and then the Voivodina. Old Serbia was left, relatively speaking, in peace; for the Serbian peasant loves his liberty and knows, too, how to defend it. But even from Serbia some queer things are reported. In Croatia, for State political reasons, the election terror had to be kept within bounds. In Slovenia it was practically impossible to exercise it at all, and it had to be limited to bringing moral pressure to bear upon Government officials and economic pressure upon persons of limited means.

The net results, moreover, make the following facts abundantly plain. Large parties were able to hold their own throughout against Government coercion; small parties went down under it. The large opposition parties have come out of the election practically as strong as they went in, whereas the lesser parties have been almost wiped out.

Governmental Electoral Resources.

What were the terroristic methods employed? As to that one is told many things. First of all, the officials were mobilised to do the canvassing for the Government. Who failed in this was in danger of losing his job. As, however, the Government's first precaution had been to pension off such as might prove tiresome, special regulations for Government officials during the actual campaign were rendered superfluous.

After purging the administrative apparatus, the Government proceeded to economic pressure, and where that failed, to pressure upon individuals. Candidates were attacked and beaten by organised bands of rowdies. This happened to the German leader, Dr. Kraft; also to the Serbian war hero and Agrarian leader, Dr. Stayitch, to Dr. Tomlyenovitch, ex-Ban of Croatia, and several others who had proved on more than one occasion that they considered no sacrifice too great for Yugoslavia. It would be quite a mistake to assume that the Germans or any other national minority had a monopoly of persecution, which was directed against all that belonged to the Opposition—and none fared worse than its Serbian adherents.

But violence failed to cow the Opposition. On several occasions the peasants took to their defence, and bloodshed resulted. Then the Government, it is said, had recourse to other means, especially on the eve of the election. Opposition candidates were arrested, and their prospective electors faced with the question, whether they cared to give their votes to a man who had been run in by the police!

In exceptional cases even the men in charge of the voting urns were placed under arrest. Every party has the right to appoint special persons to watch its own urns, and these men have also to sign the returns. In the absence of these guards it is possible to "cook" the said returns. Then again, under the law, the appointed presidents of the elections are for the most part taken from among the judges. On this occasion, and contrary to law, these judges were largely replaced by trusted servants of the Government. There are reports of methods even more crude. Electoral urns disappeared. Special regulations, quite out of order in their tenour, whereby special passes were required for access to the polls, made it impossible for Opposition electors to exercise their vote. This particular proceeding is reported from Subotica. Special editions, purporting to be those of Opposition papers, called upon the electors to vote for the Government, as a compromise had been arrived at.

These are grave allegations. But at this time of writing it is too early to do anything save to record them. Doubtless there will be investigations and inquiries, and already one is told of doubtful and disputed elections in a very large number of cases.

Yet, whatever the means employed, the Government failed to score that complete victory upon which it had counted. This was perfectly natural. Its election prospects had not been at all rosy at the last. The Radical Party was disunited to the point that in thirty-one constituencies out of fifty-six it had to combat seceders, who brought the gravest accusations against it. The Opposition was much more united than in 1923. As the Radicals had been in charge of the election on that occasion also, it was expected that at the best they would maintain their strength, and that the Independent Democrats would lose. But that, in any case, the Government would come out of the General Election without a majority.

The Results.

These forecasts have proved mistaken. The Government won by a majority of nine. Of 315 mandates, the Radicals obtained 140, the Independent Democrats 22. Of the Opposition, M. Raditch obtained 68 mandates (minus 2); M. Davidovitch, 37 (plus 4); Dr. Koroshets, 19 (minus 1); M. Spaho, 15 (minus 3); the Agrarians, 5 (minus 6); the Germans, 5 (minus 3); the Montenegrin Federalists, 3 (plus 1); and the Jemiyet, 1 (minus 13).

These are the results, as officially published by the Government. But so far nobody knows whether they are correct. The Government confines itself to declaring that the Government commands 162 mandates, and the Opposition 153. How these mandates are divided is a matter concerning which reports differ rather widely.

Of course this uncertainty is everywhere creating the worst of impressions, and it is not to be wondered at that the public at large is strongly inclined to believe the Opposition papers, which maintain that the Government has actually come out in the minority!

Be that as it may. One thing is abundantly clear. Had the election been, indeed, free and

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untrammelled, the Opposition would have scored a sure and overwhelming victory. But, even so, it has proved that the Slovenes and Croats, and a great part of the Serbs, are in favour of a brotherly agreement, and opposed to the Government policy of heretofore.

The way of M. Pribitchevitch is not the way that will lead to a solution, and this is being recognised more and more, even in Radical circles. But whether the more judicious among the Radicals will get the upper hand in the near future is not yet clear, and, therefore, it is impossible as yet to hazard forecasts concerning the future Government.

The first sitting of the Skupshtina will not take place until March 7, and it is then that the decision will fall. Yet, however it may fall, it is plain even to-day that Yugoslavia's man of the future is the man who will achieve the agreement between Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. And at this moment M. Davidovitch's prospects in this respect are brighter than those of anyone else.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, February 3.

Normal Life Again.

Tirana has settled down again to an apparently normal life since the recent stirring events. It is curious to note how the ordinary business of the country is no more disturbed by armed revolution than it is by an election. In outward appearance there are no changes to signalise. The new Government has announced its programme, which contains nothing that is remarkable. Stringent economies and administrative reforms stand in the forefront, together with the cultivation of cordial relations with all Albania's neighbours. In this the programme resembles that of all predecessors. Elections are promised at an early date, and the results are certain to be favourable to the Government.

The Government.

All the most prominent members of the Opposition, whether civilian or military, are in exile. So is the ex-Regent, Dr. Petsi, whose place has been taken by Jafer Ypi. Ahmed Zogu remains dictator. Nevertheless, he has not found the task of forming a Government an easy one. Elias Vrioni has repudiated him, and has retired to his estates. Several other prominent ex-colleagues are professing to remain aloof. The new Ministry at present accordingly remains as follows :—

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.—Ahmed Zogu.
Minister of Finance and (*ad interim*) of Justice.—Mufid Libohova.
Minister of Public Instruction and (*ad interim*) of Public Works.—Kocho Kotta.

The Prime Minister, aided by Mufid Libohova, who is an experienced ex-Turkish Administrator, has also assumed *ad interim* the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of War has been abolished and a Commander appointed, enjoying the confidence of the Cabinet, charged with the task of reorganising the Army. The idea is to disband the existing Army, the majority of which has been compromised as unfavourable to Ahmed, and to reorganise it, taking the Swiss system as a model. Meanwhile a force composed of Ahmed's staunch adherents remains the only well-equipped body of men in the country.

The "rump" of the Constitutional Assembly has met to sanction the present Prime Minister's *coup*, and is now adjourned, after voting an order of the day in favour of a republican form of Government.

A Revival of the Clique?

The only symptom of interest that emerged from its sitting was the attitude of the ex-Speaker, M. Eshref Frasheri. The latter has been a staunch supporter of Ahmed, and was the prime mover of the "Clique" which arose in the first place as a patriotic association, but later degenerated into a secret mutual benefit society, until Ahmed practically destroyed it by splitting it into various sections, some for and some against him. It appears that Eshref is now anxious to pursue an independent policy and to revive the organisation of the Clique, purged both of the immediate followers of Ahmed and of the extreme Opposition. This, on the one hand, and the independent followers of Elias Vrioni will therefore presumably constitute the "Constitutional Opposition."

Concession.

The Prime Minister has announced that he intends on the earliest occasion to conclude the agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and to reopen negotiations with regard to the tobacco concession.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 11.

The Liberal Party.

M. Duca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been good enough to give the following summary of the work of the Liberal Government since it came into power three years ago—the work which it is still striving to complete in the best interests of the country.

Consolidation of Greater Roumania.

The National Liberal Party, during its three years of office, has concentrated all its efforts upon the consolidation of Greater Roumania. This work had to be considered from different points of view :

(a) From the Constitutional point of view.
(b) From the administrative and legislative point of view.
(c) From the economic and financial point of view.

Each of these aspects of the problem has been taken up in its turn, and in less than three years the Government has succeeded in providing the necessary solutions.

Constitutional Aspect.

As regards the Constitution, it was evident that the actual organisation of the country could not be undertaken until a working basis had been formed. The new Constitution is a very democratic one : it contains nothing which differs greatly from the Constitutions of other countries, drawn up since the War. One point, however, deserves special notice, and that is the nationalisation of the sub-soil. According to the new Constitution all the sub-soil belongs to the State. If one adds to this the expropriation of land, and universal suffrage, which are also due to the initiative of the National Liberal Party, it will be understood why this party

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can afford to smile ironically at the attacks of those who would represent it as a party without political ideals or truly democratic aspirations.

Administrative Consolidation.

As regards the administrative and legislative consolidation, the Liberals have worked for co-ordination in the organisation of the country in this respect. It was, indeed, impossible to continue with the existing system, i.e., with the Roumanian legislation in the Old Kingdom, the Hungarian legislation in Transylvania, the Austrian in the Bukovina, and the Russian in Bessarabia.

The law for administrative co-ordination, based upon a wide decentralisation, will be voted by Parliament within the next few months; the law for the unification of schools has been partly voted; and there only remains to be passed during the present session the law for private and secondary education. The law for the general organisation of the magistrature was passed last year.

This work has been guided by two main ideas. In the first place, the Liberals have systematically avoided the imposing upon the whole of the New Roumania of the legislation of the Old Kingdom. On the contrary, an attempt has been made to accept the best of the legislation of each province.

Secondly, an effort was made to give to this work of organisation and legislation a democratic character, compatible with the spirit of modern times.

The co-ordination of the Codes was a harder task. The Penal Code is finished, and certain parts of the Commercial Code also, but the unification of the Civil Code is a very difficult and delicate matter, and will doubtless not be completed for several years.

Financial Situation.

As regards the financial and economic consolidation, the task of the Government was particularly difficult. On coming into power it was faced by a deplorable financial situation and a bad economic one. A deplorable financial situation because the Budget showed a deficit, there was an enormous floating debt not consolidated, both at home and abroad; crying debts everywhere; in fact, there was complete and discouraging financial disorder, and a depreciated currency losing value every day.

From the economic point of view, the trade balance showed a deficit, speculation was rife, all kinds of new enterprises were being founded which, owing to imperfect organisation, were foredoomed to failure.

In less than three years the Liberals have completely re-established the financial situation. This year's Budget is the third balanced one; the foreign floating debt is entirely consolidated, and the internal floating debt almost paid off. The Government has liquidated the crying debts. It has introduced order into the public finances and re-established the normal working of the service of the public debt. There now only remain the war debts to be arranged for, and those, be it said, represent a comparatively moderate sum, considering the possibilities of Roumania.

The Liberals have stopped the fall in the value of the leu, the present fluctuations in the exchange being such that the national currency may be regarded as stabilised in relation to the gold standard, so that Roumanian commerce and industry are enabled to work under practically normal conditions.

Moreover, they have re-established the commercial balance which has now been on the credit side for the last two years, and is daily tending further in that direction. They have put an end to speculation and the foundation of mushroom companies: those unmistakable signs of financial instability and money crisis.

They have also begun to cope with the important problem of the development of the natural riches of the country, including the natural sources of energy, and in this connection they have appealed to foreign capital for its collaboration. Their programme, which, indeed, is not a new one, is in no way hostile to foreign capital. They are perfectly well aware that it is impossible to develop the country's riches by means of its own financial resources only. What they do want, however, is to collaborate with foreign capital in such a way that the Roumanian element is enabled to participate in the economic development of the country. Their formulæ for this collaboration are to be found exemplified in the Law of Commercialisation. On the basis of this law they have begun to make provision for the expansion of the exploitation of mines, water power, metallurgical industries, and M. Duca said that he was bound to say that, in spite of the campaign that has been waged against this vast and interesting programme, the Liberals had the satisfaction of noting that foreign capital with serious intentions has not refused its participation, and they are on the eve of the realisation of certain creations of the greatest importance, both from the point of view of the organisation of our economic future and from the point of view of national defence.

It is true that this work is far from completion, and that many imperfections may be found in it, but it is none the less true that it represents an effort of incontestable importance, in consideration of which the Government can well afford to treat as negligible the agitations of an opposition which is more or less impatient to come into power.

The Government and Foreign Opinion.

It is, proceeded M. Duca, neither the Liberals' custom nor their wish to attack in foreign countries their political adversaries. Suffice it to say here simply that the interests of the country demand the existence of a strong and serious opposition capable of completing the work of consolidation of Roumania from the moment when the Liberals are unable to continue it. Their only regret is that up till now no such opposition has been formed, and that is why they continue their efforts without regard to the agitations or attacks, of which THE NEAR EAST published certain echoes, keeping in view their main aim, which is the consolidation of that Roumania which has been created at the expense of such great sacrifices and so much bloodshed.

KARACHI AS AIRSHIP BASE.

It is understood that the discussions on the choice of a base in India for the airship service will be settled in favour of Karachi, and that Bombay will be a halting-place with a mooring mast. The Rangoon Correspondent of the *Times* has stated that Rangoon may also be a port of call. The idea is a line of mooring masts at Calcutta, Rangoon, and Singapore on the way to Australia.

It is reported from Bucharest that the Senate has ratified the Bill providing for the creation of a Roumanian Patriarchate.

The dispute between Roumania and Bulgaria concerning agrarian reform and Bulgarian minorities in the South Dobruja, which came up before the Council of the League of Nations at Brussels recently, has been settled in a friendly manner.

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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.

TURKEY TO-DAY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It would be a pity if the address given before the Central Asian Society by Lieut.-Colonel J. H. M. Cornwall, and reported in THE NEAR EAST of January 22, should go unchallenged. He has represented Turkey to the British public in a very unfavourable and unfair light, and, as Colonel Stokes commented at that meeting, our Eastern interests depend upon friendship with Turkey—which the Turkish Government has declared itself quite willing to reciprocate. But friendship can only be attained if we have a true understanding, and not one jaundiced by misinformation or prejudice.

Colonel Cornwall is entitled to his opinions, based as they are on his knowledge of Turkey a year ago. But those who know the country intimately are aware that the opinions and prejudices one held a year ago are already antiquated; for the past year has made a marked change in the Government policy, the mentality of the public mind, and the economic condition of the country. The whole situation now is vastly more promising.

The population of the country is not declining—except for a sudden loss of a million inhabitants to Greece, which does not mean a declining birth-rate. The total population of Turkey is now 13,300,000 (according to latest Government figures), and not 8,000,000, as Colonel Cornwall states. It is not true that it is impossible to get a pair of shoes repaired in Turkey: in the cities there are whole sections of the bazaars given up to cobblers, and in many villages—quite possibly not all—there are cobblers who do cheap and good work. Although immediately after the exodus of the non-Moslem population skilled workmen were apparently scarce, there are now plenty of carpenters, builders, and all kinds of craftsmen among the Turks. The rapid rebuilding of the burned villages and the extension of many railway lines and improvement and construction of roads indicates plenty of sufficiently competent labour.

The Turkish authorities are still reluctant to admit foreign capital, but the day is drawing close when they will permit this. Already business is penetrating rapidly, foreign firms are establishing themselves and gaining large concessions from Angora. The Turkish Press is starting an agitation for a better policy in respect to foreign capital, and the Government, faced by an increasingly powerful Opposition party, is bound to take cognisance of the Press demands.

I might adduce many other reasons for a more optimistic outlook upon the immediate future of this country, but space forbids. Colonel Cornwall either has not witnessed the remarkable progress the young and handicapped Republic has made during the past twelve months, or he has seen things with rather an *a priori* pessimism. British residents who have remained in Turkey are much more optimistic.—I am, etc.,

KENNETH P. KIRKWOOD.

International College, Smyrna.
February 2, 1925.

[Between Mr. Kirkwood's optimism and Colonel Cornwall's pessimism we do not care to choose, but in fairness to Colonel Cornwall we must point out that his impressions were based on experiences in Turkey at least as recently as last summer.—ED.]

EARLY MOSLEM ARCHITECTURE.

At the School of Oriental Studies in Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. Ernest Richmond, F.R.I.B.A., is delivering a series of five lectures on Early Moslem Architecture. Mr. Richmond was at one time employed by the Egyptian Government in the restoration of Moslem and other monuments, and afterwards went to Palestine at the request of Lord Allenby to inquire into the condition of the building known as the Dome of the Rock.

In the course of the first lecture—delivered on February 11—Mr. Richmond traced the growth of the mosque from its beginning with the one founded at Medina in the year of the Hegira (622 A.D.). This was, he said, a very simple building, square in plan, the sides each one hundred cubits long. Foundations and enclosing wall were of stone to a height of 4½ ft., and above that of brick. By means of lantern slides the lecturer illustrated the plan of this mosque, also the plans and elevations of others erected within the following ninety years, by which time Moslem rule had been extended over the whole of Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, Spain, Persia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, and a part of North-Western India. The Arabs of that time were far from being savages, and wherever they went they found noble buildings, and craftsmen highly skilled in the building arts. Thus in the period named they evolved a unified and balanced architectural expression for their needs. Those needs were partly physical, partly ritual, and partly political. The physical needs were met by the provision of a secluded area, a sheltered sanctuary, and sheltered access to it from every side. The ritual needs were met by the provision of minarets from which to call to prayer, a basin in a fountain for use before prayer, a pulpit from which to preach after prayer, and a niche in the sanctuary to indicate the direction of prayer—this was at first towards Jerusalem, but afterwards towards Mecca. The political needs were met by a majesty and symmetry of plan and a splendour of ornament which would rival and surpass if possible the architecture of the conquered Greek civilisation in the provinces of the Byzantime Empire that had been overrun, and so illustrate in a manner visible to everyone the high and dominant place in the world that had been taken by the followers of Islam.

EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

Reuter's Cairo Correspondent, writing on February 4, states:—The following appointments in the Egyptian Diplomatic Service are awaiting the Royal sanction:—

Seifulla Pasha Yusry, Egyptian Minister at Washington, is to be transferred to Berlin.

Mahmoud Pasha Samy, former Under-Secretary of State for Communications, will replace Seifulla Pasha Yusry at Washington.

Mahmoud Bey Fayed, formerly Engineer of the Public Works Department, is appointed Minister at Madrid.

Saddek Pasha Wahba, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is appointed Minister at Brussels.

Mahmoud Bey Sabet, formerly First Secretary of Legation in London, is appointed Minister at Prague.

Heddaya Pasha, Governor of Cairo, is appointed Minister at Athens.

These appointments involve the creation of five new Legations.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 19, 1925 (New Style).
February 6, 1925 (Old Style).
Rajab 25, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 25, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith have returned to London from India.

Mr. and Mrs. John Walter left London last week for Egypt and Palestine.

Lady Archer, wife of Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, left Cairo last week for England.

Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., and Lady Mond and Miss Nora Mond have returned from Upper Egypt to Palestine.

Sir Victor Warrender, M.P., and Lady Warrender have returned to 18, Upper Grosvenor Street, from Palestine.

Sir Harold and Lady Snagge left London last Thursday for Egypt, and will not be back in England before the end of March.

The Earl and Countess of Berkeley have left Claridge's for a short visit to Luxor. They will return to London early in the spring.

Colonel and Mrs. A. M. Gage, who accompanied their son to Bombay, have now returned to London, and are residing in Park Lane.

Lord and Lady Monkswell have left England for Egypt, and do not expect to be at 69, Cambridge Terrace, W.2, till the end of March.

Mr. H. Charles Woods has left London for Palestine and Syria. He expects to return to England by way of Turkey and the Balkan States.

Sir Atul C. Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, was among the Fellows elected at the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute.

The Crown Princess of Roumania and Princess Irene of Greece visited Their Majesties the King and Queen last Sunday at Buckingham Palace and remained to luncheon.

Their Excellencies the Bulgarian Minister, M. Pantcho Haji-Mischeff, and the Turkish Minister, Zekiai Bey, had the honour of being received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace last Thursday.

Mrs. Patrick Ness will lecture before the Central Asian Society on Friday, February 27, at 74, Grosvenor Street, W., on "Across the Syrian Desert to Persia," with lantern illustrations, at 5 p.m.

Professor G. Elliot-Smith, F.R.S., delivered a lecture on "Medical and Biological Science Among the Egyptians" last Tuesday, at the Royal Society, Burlington House (by kind permission of the Council), under the auspices of the Egyptian Exploration Society.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

PERKINS—On January 24 at Moda, Constantinople, Millicent (née Whitehouse), wife of William Jackson Perkins (Junior), of Constantinople (late of Guildford, Surrey)—a daughter.

The Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, gave a dinner party on February 10 at Claridge's Hotel in celebration of the birthday of Prince Farouq, the Crown Prince of Egypt.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Mr. Stanley P. Rice will read a paper entitled "India's Gifts to England"; the meeting, which will be presided over by Lord Ampthill, will take place on February 23 at 3.30 p.m. in the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

The marriage took place last Tuesday at the Brompton Oratory of Mr. Ivan Stancioff, only son of H.E. Monsieur Dimitri Stancioff and of Madame Stancioff (née Comtesse de Grenaud), and Miss Marion Mitchell, only daughter of the late Mr. James Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell, of 46, Mount Street, Mayfair.

A series of lectures, the first of which was delivered last Thursday, is being given in the Lecture Theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum by Mr. A. J. B. Wace on "Greek Embroideries." These lectures, admission to which is free, without ticket, will be continued to-day and every Thursday at 6 p.m. until April.

The engagement is announced of Lionel George Archer Cust, Royal Artillery, District Officer, Jerusalem, only son of Mr. Lionel Cust, C.V.O., and the Hon. Mrs. Cust, of Datchet House, Datchet, and Margaret Violet Louisa Clowes, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Arthur Clowes, 1st Life Guards and Staffordshire Yeomanry, of Norbury, Derbyshire, and of Lady Storrs, The Residence, Jerusalem.

Mrs. Charles Hancock gave an "at home" on February 11 at 125, Queen's Gate, for the Kensington branch of the League of Nations Union to discuss the Geneva Protocol. Lord Phillimore was in the chair, and Rear-Admiral Drury Lowe, Mr. Sidebotham, Mr. Stein, and Mr. Hancock spoke. Among those who accepted invitations were:—The Chargé d'Affaires of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Persian Minister, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires, the Albanian Minister, Sir John and Lady Brunner, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, and the Dowager Lady Boyle.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1925.

TAKING STOCK IN INDIA.

We referred recently to the decision of the Government of India to move some way towards meeting the demand for an inquiry into the economic condition of the country. The announcement last week of the appointment of a small preliminary committee to clear the ground shows that no time is being lost, and it is pleasant to be able to recognise the fitness of the members—two Indian administrators and one English economist—for the limited task assigned to them. The inquiry is thus in being, and it may be well to explain, more fully than we have yet done, what is wanted, and why. A demand for such a national stocktaking exists in three very different quarters. To begin with, the extremist politicians in India clamour for it, but their eagerness is discounted by the conditions on which they insist. They claim to nominate a majority of the investigators, or, in other words, to pack what should be a strictly impartial tribunal, and they do not conceal the hope that by this measure they will obtain fresh supplies of garbage to throw at the British Administration and the British people. If these politicians stood alone, we should object to any inquiry whatever being made at the expense of the Indian taxpayer. People who want cooked statistics may fairly be expected to pay for the cost of cooking, and the manufacture of party ammunition is a fair charge on the party chest, but not on the public treasury. The demand of other classes stands, however, on a different footing. Many of the best men in India are increasingly perplexed at the disparity between national aspirations and the national income. So many things are urgently wanted, so little money is available, progress seems so slow, and hearts are so very faint, that they ask to be told exactly how the country really stands, what is the national income, what proportion of it can now be set aside for nation-building, and what prospect there is of a progressive increase in the amount.

In our view, these serious thinkers are perfectly justified in asking the Government to furnish them with answers to such questions as these, and the case for an inquiry is strengthened by the feeling of uncertainty which is growing up in countries outside India. The English nation, the Empire, and the world in general have been accustomed for nearly a century to hear of the material benefits which have accrued to India under British rule, and, in the absence of effective contradiction, they have regarded the matter as settled fact. They are becoming disturbed by the activities of the men who put forward the contrary view, sometimes as professional politicians, sometimes masquerading in the disguise of professed economists. No private individual has leisure or opportunity to study the whole vast subject for himself; the foreign student sees at most assertions and denials which he is not in a position to test with effect, expressions of individual opinion are necessarily open to more or less suspicion, and the time has come when the question should be submitted to the judgment of impartial experts. For Englishmen in particular the matter is one which seems to us to touch the national honour. Acting as trustees for the Indian peoples, we have claimed credit for a slow but real development of the wards' estate. That claim is now vehemently denied, and in justice to ourselves we are bound to give the world an opportunity of judging the value of our work. It is true that most of the relevant facts have been published from year to year, but the mass of figures has become far too great for individuals to grasp, and what is wanted now is to review this mass of figures, to eliminate the accidents, direct attention to the more durable tendencies, and provide a definite answer to the questions: What has been the national income during the period of thirty years or so for which it can be statistically measured? Is it increasing or diminishing? What is the rate of movement? And is the rate itself changing, either favourably or unfavourably? On the answers to these questions depends the verdict on the material side of our work in India, and it is due to ourselves, even more than to the rest of the world, that the answers should be formulated in the plainest terms.

An inquiry of this sort must fulfil two conditions—it must be strictly expert, and it must be strictly impartial. There is no room for amateurs, and there is no room for experts who have already made up their minds on any of the questions in issue. The main burden must be borne by men familiar with the economics of peasant life, and the number of these in England, as in India, is, unfortunately, very small. Happily there are peasant-economists in other countries, in France and Belgium, in Japan and America, and a strong foreign element on the tribunal appears to us to be most desirable, because we should then find the union of competence and impartiality which is indispensable, and we should in effect be submitting the whole matter to the judgment of the civilised world. We would have no Indian administrators on the tribunal itself: they should rank as assessors, helping the members to get at the facts, but having no voice in the decisions. Similarly, the Legislative Assembly might be invited to appoint assessors, to ensure that unofficial views should receive due attention; but with no other influence on the tribunal than could be secured by the presentation of relevant matters of fact. We realise that the Assembly, in its present temper, might refuse to have anything to do with an inquiry of the type we have indicated. In that case, the members should be appointed by the Cabinet, and paid by Parliament. We realise also that many Indian politicians, according to their habit, would endeavour to discredit such an inquiry in advance, and would ostentatiously refuse to accept its findings. It is not, however, of the politicians that we are thinking, but of the reasonable people, in India and elsewhere, who want to know the facts, and also of the Indian administration, which, under existing conditions, would undoubtedly benefit by a verdict from outside. The essential thing is to put the truth before the public in a form which the public can grasp. If that is done, the truth will gradually win acceptance, until even politicians at last get tired of denying it; but so long as the truth remains buried in the archives, the public must remain perplexed, and increasingly suspicious that there is something to hide.

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LITTLE NIGHTINGALE.

By F. W. CHARDIN.

The Albu Hamed was a house, or rather a tribe, divided against itself. True it is that, politically speaking, this was of no great moment, for the tribe was a small and uninfluential one of semi-settled graziers, in contradistinction to the great nomad fraternities of the wide desert.

The persons profiting by this domestic discord were the tribe of the Hadidin and Little Nightingale, the former hereditary foes of our friends the Albu Hamed and a similar semi-settled fraternity noted only for their pusillanimity and for the large number of sheep they possessed, quite possibly many of them having formerly belonged to the Albu Hamed. The latter were generally considered far bolder in raid than their enemies, yet their unfortunate dissension meant for them a continual victimisation to the puny efforts of their despised adversaries.

As we have stated, Little Nightingale also profited, and he was the cause of all the trouble.

Never was a name more ridiculously inappropriate, and never was a more idyllic-sounding title applied to a more arrant scoundrel. For Bulaibil, to give his name untranslated, it being the Arabic diminutive of Bulbul, the Perso-Arabic for "nightingale," was a negro who had usurped the position of Sheikh of a portion of his tribe, the Albu Hamed.

The history of this gentleman furnishes us with a magnificent illustration of the doctrine of "self-help" in the Smilesian sense used in conjunction with the truly Arab doctrine of "helping one's-self" to the property of others, the great be-all and end-all of the desert man's existence.

In the beginning, Bulaibil was the negro *abd* or slave of the Sheikh of the Albu Hamed, but by means of his personality, ability, courage, and skill in intrigue, had displaced his chief as leader of, shall we say, the most progressive half of his tribe. His career throughout had been one of lawlessness, an amazing episode in it being his appointment as an officer in the *zabtieh* or gendarmerie. This he had obtained as a result of his intrigue at the seat of government, and from the Turkish Vali had he secured the appointment for himself as aforesaid and for his son as a *shaoush* or sergeant in the same force. All this, of course, happened before the Great War, and it is a sufficient commentary on the condition of the Turkish Empire under the Young Turks, that this illiterate negro criminal should receive a commissioned appointment in an Imperial force of the Sublime Porte.

What followed during his term of Government service history does not record, the tale of his exploits being doubtless snowed under by those of many other officials anxious to improve their positions and to fill their pockets. The old proverb "Set a thief to catch a thief" was, one may assume, well justified in him, for if he caught anyone, it would be a thief, the desert community among whom he operated being one where all are more or less thieves. The evidence goes to show, however, that with his change of position, he suffered no change of heart, and that he did not discontinue his former life, and that Bulaibil the negro Bedawi robber and Bulaibil the *mulazim* of gendarmes were one and the same in word and deed.

When the temporary but none the less deep, *Pax Britannica* fell on the land in late 1918, Bulaibil had rejoined his tribe, having jockeyed himself into position as Sheikh of half the tribe and receiving official recognition as such. He thereupon became a most assiduous representative of the tribe's interest or, perhaps more correctly, his own interest, at the local seat of government.

Ever and anon he appeared before the Political Officer with petition after petition and complaint after complaint, about sheep or donkeys stolen or crops damaged, generally by those swashbuckling bravoes, the Hadidin. Needless to say, when this happened, the poor innocent members of the Albu Hamed were sleeping or on their lawful occasions. His dark brown, gnarled, cunning old face, framed in its scraggy beard of grey hair, his piteous, appealing, shifty, bold black eyes gazed beseechingly, while he wrung his brown monkey-like hands and whiningly pressed his case for restitution of something which, ten to one, had never been stolen from him.

The old villain, however, when caught out in some piece of lying, would be quite prepared to laugh at his own discomfiture, and took the first opportunity of having another shot at a possible something for a probable nothing. He was always at it and made himself a regular old nuisance.

When he was not exasperating the Political Officer he was plaguing his co-Sheikh, the rightful head of his tribe, proving that it is quite possible for a little nightingale to play the part of a stormy petrel.

And so it was until the early part of the rising of 1920. It then came about that the cowardly Hadidin, seeing the Government in difficulties from many quarters, resolved to make hay while the sun shone. So, setting out in force, they proceeded to overawe the inhabitants of the Christian villages of the plains, people more cowardly even than they, and the only ones they dare attack. They frightened a whole countryside tens of times more numerous than they into submission, and secured great loot in cattle.

Bulaibil meanwhile had collected a band of choice spirits, cut-throats and outlaws, from various tribal elements, and had established a highly creditable organisation for the pursuit of "self determination," which meant, to him, attacking peaceful villages and "shooting up" roads whenever a rich or important traveller was seen to be travelling thereon, and for some weeks pursued his aims openly and boldly.

In a short time, however, order was re-established, the situation was again in hand, and administration was again being carried on in the outlying districts.

Bulaibil then, the erstwhile gendarme officer, became an outlaw with a price on his head, and accordingly, together with his merry men, retired into the desert solitudes of the wild rocky district near the Turkish frontier, and established himself in a hill fortress, stark and well-nigh impregnable. From this refuge he used to issue, and many a peaceful traveller met his end on the lonely desert tracks of the district, until, despite all the exertions of the authorities and the military, some roads became a byword for insecurity. Aeroplanes were sent to bomb him in his stronghold, tribal raids against him were organised by Political Officers amongst tribes who wished to stand well with the Government. But all was of little effect,

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as, when his refuge became too hot for him, he and his desperadoes retired into Turkish territory, thence to sally forth and harass law-abiding people under British control. Strict orders were issued by G.H.Q. that, for international reasons, no aeroplanes were to fly over the frontier nor was any armed force to cross the boundary.

Thus Bulaibil here was safe, and it is even reported that Turkish machine-gunners used to open defensive fire when his desert stronghold was menaced.

But the Albu Hamed was once again a united tribe; the cause of its internal dissensions was gone, and it could now deal more effectually with the pretensions of the Hadidin. Its evil genius, the "Little Nightingale," had flown, and was now doubtless singing its wooing song to the "Rose" of the Turkish Nationalist governor of the frontier district.

ALBANIAN MONUMENTS.

The Greek journal *Hestia* recently published some most interesting information, contributed by M. Sotiriou, "Ephor" for Byzantine antiquities, upon the fourteen villages of the region of Lake Prespa, which the Conference of Ambassadors recently assigned to Albania. These places have a quite unsuspected archæological value.

"I have just visited these villages (says M. Sotiriou), which are situated near the banks of the Great Prespa and in the region of Castoria. The Frontier Commission place the border line near the territory of the village Orovo. In this way Albania obtains the village of Postesti, with the little island of St. Paul opposite, which is known under the name of Mali-Grad; the village of Globotsani, in the neighbourhood of which the curious mediæval hermitage of Evanghelistria is to be found; and other villages, High and Low Goritsa, Rakitzka, Soulin, and so on. These villages possess monuments which go back to the Middle Hellenic period.

"In the island of Mali-Grad, in front of Postesti, there exists, in a large grotto, what is the most remarkable monument in the region of Prespa. The church is called after St. Paul, but actually it is dedicated to the Birth of the Virgin. It is an extremely graceful building of the Byzantine epoch, decorated both inside and out, particularly on its south and west walls, with mural paintings that date from 1369. Preserved intact until this day, they are a very useful element in the study of the last renascence of the old Albanian art.

"The mediæval hermitage of Globotsani is built, among abrupt rocks, in a large gap which opens upon the lake. The side of the gap which faces the lake has been closed by a wall. In the grotto thus formed one finds, down below, the chapel, adorned with mural paintings. Above are cells, with balconies overlooking the lake and communicating with the chapel by means of a trap-door. One mounts to the cellules from the lake by a staircase.

"This hermitage belongs to a whole series of similar hermitages and convents, situated in grottoes or gaps which open in the rocks bordering on the lake. Here is evidence, then, that a monachal fraternity, similar to that on Mount Athos, flourished in these places. But the hermitages of the Prespa are much more picturesque and more precious for the history of old Albanian art by reason of their paintings, the inscriptions on which fix their date."

The following is taken from the Report of the French Archæological Mission in Albania, and is dated November, 1924:—

"In the course of its most recent excavations, the French Archæological Mission discovered two Græco-Roman houses. Under their foundations M. Léon Rey found the ruins of an older building, dating from about the fifth century B.C.; that is to say, the period of the Corinthian column. All the objects, architectural débris, vases, coins, and so on, found in the excavations, have been sent, duplicates included, to the Government delegate. Among them should be noted a ravishing little feminine head in white marble. This *chef d'œuvre* of the Hellenic period will show prominently in the National Museum at Tirana."

INDIA AND DEMOCRACY.

Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, presiding at the fifth anniversary of the Indian Students' Union and Hostel on February 4, said that to any Indian that institution must be a source of pride, for it was an institution meant for Indians, run to a very large extent by Indians, and supervised by Indians. The hostel showed the advantages of co-operation between different races. One of the objects of Indian sojourn in England for study was to gain an understanding of British people and institutions; and the students would not make the best use of their opportunities if they did not come in contact with their British contemporaries, and mix with British people and the people from other countries who came to London.

Mr. Philip Kerr, speaking on democracy, said that, as one who wished India to take over control of her own affairs as soon as the many obstacles in the way could be overcome, he challenged the view that the 1919 reforms had failed. Democracy meant rows, not calm going as in a kind of lotus land. Looking at the wave of post-War emotionalism in which the reforms were conceived and the many grave problems they raised, he thought that both England and India were to be congratulated on having made a very good start on the road to responsible government in India.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on Wednesday, February 25, at 8.30 p.m., at 55, Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, by kind permission of Mrs. Bruce Dick. The subject of discussion will be "Islam and Christianity," and the speakers include Sir Thomas Arnold and Lord Headley. Papers by the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali and the Rev. D. Miller Kay will be read by Dr. Ernest Griffin. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside.

Last Thursday the Indian Legislative Assembly at Delhi carried, without a division, a resolution against the Government's recommending that the Indian representatives should be instructed to place the grievances of Indians in the Tanganyika mandated territory before the League of Nations.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE MANICHEES' RELIGION.

"THE RELIGION OF THE MANICHEES." By F. C. Burkitt, Hon.D.D.(Dubl.). (Cambridge University Press. 6s. net.)

Professor Burkitt has placed students of religious history under a great obligation by his courage in bringing together, in the Donnellan Lectures, the materials for determining what the Manichees really believed. The word "Manichee" in mediæval Latin was a term of vulgar abuse hurled at every heretic in turn, just as its descendant, through a racial medium, is still to be heard in circles where the stronger forms of the English language are not taboo. The Churchman never attempted to understand the faith he abused, and the convert who had understood it has left behind him only the relics of his zeal as a Christian controversialist and the order:

Incendite omnes illas membranas elegantesque tecturas decoris pellibus exquisitas.

But the Christian Church is not alone in its antagonism to the faith of Mani. The Sasanian monarch and his Muslim successor found it expedient to exterminate such an evil heresy and creed, and the question presented to the reader after reading Professor Burkitt's book is: "What was the cause of this antagonism?" To assert that it was religious bigotry only carries us part of the way, for there was much more than that. The fierceness of the antagonism of three empires and three faiths requires a more solid reason, or set of reasons, than mere bigotry, and it can be found in the associations of the word in later times. Now these associations are what a famous Cambridge professor would have called "altogether beastly," so it may be assumed that the beliefs set forth by Mani were, at any rate, regarded as a menace to society. This supposition is substantiated by Professor Burkitt's investigations.

Mani, as he shows, faced the question of the existence of evil, and had the courage to eliminate man from the responsibility of its existence. With that elimination, under the ingenious solution of the conflict of dark and light, moral responsibility ceases to exist, and that solution no State can be expected to allow to gain acceptance, for with it seems to vanish all possibility of order. The Decalogue, it is true, appears in Manichæan teaching, also other "moral" elements, but they seem to be superfluous to the system.

Professor Burkitt in his first lecture outlines the history of the Manichees, and, after giving the extant authorities, he proceeds to work out the system of Manis, beginning with his account of the Past. In the second lecture he deals with the Present and Future—completing the "Three Moments" in the conflict of the "two Roots"—the Light and the Dark. In the third lecture he deals with the sources of the system, which he traces in the main to Marcion and Bardaison. He concludes with an estimate of the influence of Manichæan terminology, through S. Augustine, on Christian modes of expression. He gives an interesting sketch of Manichæan tendencies in modern thought. But perhaps the most striking instance we know of purely Manichæan sentiment is to be found in Dr. T. Binney's hymn:

> Eternal Light! eternal Light!
> How pure the soul must be,
> When placed within Thy searching sight,
> It shrinks not, but, with calm delight,
> Can live, and look on Thee!

The hymn from beginning to end is in complete accord with the system outlined in this work, and, although it appears in a well-known Christian hymnal, it contains no characteristic sentiment of Christianity whatsoever.

Professor Burkitt acknowledges his debt to the work of Professor v. Le Coq and M. Prosper Alfaric, and the debt is clearly great, but in using their work he has produced much more than a mere compilation. He has presented Manichæism, perhaps for the first time, as a religion whose great following is not beyond comprehension; indeed, he has shown that it was a very real attempt to grapple with a theological problem which is still unsolved—the nature of evil—producing a theory at least less grotesque than the Hebrew theory of the fruit of the forbidden tree and the idea underlying it.

F. W. BUCKLER.

SYMBOLISM IN INDIAN ART.

"THE HIMALAYAS IN INDIAN ART." By E. B. Havell. (London: John Murray. 12s.)

Mr. Havell has thoroughly established himself as an authoritative writer on the art of India, and this book, like all its predecessors by him, is distinguished by scholarship, knowledge, and keen artistic appreciation. No student of the subject can afford to neglect it, and representing, as it does, a series of Forlong Bequest lectures given at the School of Oriental Studies, it has also a strong appeal to the non-learned inquirer.

As a critic Mr. Havell has a position all his own, and he owes this in great part to his deep studies in the symbolism which is the key to the understanding of Hindu religious art. It is unfortunate that these very studies have led him to confuse mystical interpretations of artistic conventions with the historical evolution of these conventions. To us it appears that this confusion vitiates the whole foundation of the book. It is no doubt, for instance, true that much of the symbolism of Hindu art is now connected with the far heights and waters of the Himalayas where the gods abide. But it is a far step from this to assert that Hindu religious architecture, sculpture, and painting derive from some "Aryan" or "Vedic" ancestors who lived in the Himalayas and there founded the artistic conventions which we now see. There is, of course, not the vestige of proof of this theory, and much can be said against its possibility. Even more fanciful is the theory, set forth in beautiful language, that the figure of the Dancing Siva so familiar in the art of Southern India is the fruit of contemplation of the Indian Ocean from the Western Ghats at calm sunset and in storm.

We regret that want of space prevents us from doing justice to the many desirable points in this book. We must, however, thank the author for his chapter on the livingness of Indian art at the present day, and for his insistence on the necessity for the powers that be to alter their attitude to the hereditary artists of the country, specially as their own efforts are usually nothing to be specially proud of.

The illustrations are numerous and in every way excellent.

C. S.-W.

JEWISH HISTORY FOR THE YOUNG.

"THE STORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE." Vol. II. Being a History of the Jewish People since Bible Times. By Jack M. Myers. With a Prefatory Note by the Very Rev. the Chief Rabbi. With Illustrations. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Jack M. Myers is to be congratulated on having continued the good work which he commenced in 1909, when he presented his young

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readers with the first part of "The Story of the Jewish People." In Volume I. the author sketched the history of the Jews from 175 B.C. to 220 A.D. in a style sufficiently simple to be adapted to the needs of young readers between the ages of eleven and seventeen. In Volume II. of this very attractive text-book Mr. Myers continues his historical sketches in an equally fascinating manner, and brings his readers to the year 1270. Chapters are devoted to the history of the Jews in Spain, the Crusades, and the great writers and travellers of the period. This little book will doubtless prove as popular among young Jewish people as has Volume I., and should make a welcome addition to the library of every school and home where Jewish children are encouraged to take an intelligent interest in the history of their ancestors.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"India in 1923-24." A statement prepared for presentation to Parliament in accordance with the requirements of the 26th Section of the Government of India Act. By L. F. Rushbrook Williams. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Challenge of Asia." By Stanley Rice. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Sacred Books of the East." Edited by F. Max Müller. Vol. X. 2nd Edition. Revised. (London: Humphrey Milford. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Eastern Question: An Historical Study in European Diplomacy." By J. A. R. Marriott. 3rd Edition. Revised. (London: Humphrey Milford. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Antimony Ores." With a map. By Edward Halse, A.R.S.M., M.Inst.M.M. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

"Bismuth Ores." With a map. By R. Allen, M.A., B.Sc., etc. (London: John Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Wealth and Taxable Capacity of India." By Prof. K. T. Shah and K. J. Khambata, M.A. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"Buddhist Birth Stories (Jataka Tales)." Translated by T. W. Rhys Davids. New and Revised Edition by Mrs. Rhys Davids, D.Litt., M.A. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Conference of the Birds: A Sufi Allegory." By R. P. Masani, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 6s. net.)

"Crime in India." By S. M. Edwardes, C.S.I., C.V.O. (London: Humphrey Milford. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Czecho-Slovakia." By Dr. Josef Gruber. (London: Macmillan Co. 9s. net.)

"The Noblest Frailty." By Michael Sadleir. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Caucasian Folk Tales." Translated from the German version of Adolph Dirr by Lucy Menzies. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"The Dance of Siva." (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Cross and Crescent: A Tale of an Egyptian Revolt." By E. A. Berkwood. (London: Mills and Boon. 7s. 6d. net.)

INDIAN GOVERNORS' LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The India Office issues the following communiqué:—

The Secretary of State for India in Council has sanctioned, on the recommendation of the Governor-General in Council, the grant of leave of absence for four months for urgent reasons of health and private affairs to Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Governor of Bihar and Orissa, and Sir John Henry Kerr, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S., Governor of Assam. For the period of their absence on leave the King has appointed Sir Hugh McPherson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., and Sir William James Reid, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., to hold and execute the offices of Governor of Bihar and Orissa and Governor of Assam respectively.

Sir Henry Wheeler will proceed on leave with effect from March 26, 1925, and Sir John Kerr with effect from July 1, 1925.

WAR OFFICE APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments are announced by the War Office:—

Colonel C. E. Kitson, D.S.O., to be Officer in Charge of Records, Lichfield, vice Colonel J. H. Hall, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sir F. N. Elphinstone-Dalrymple, Bart., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.A., to be Commandant, Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, vice Colonel J. A. C. Somerville, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Colonel Kitson has the triple experience of service in the Militia, Regular Army, and Volunteer Force, having been a subaltern in the Kent Artillery before transfer to the Royal West Kent Regiment, of whose 1st Volunteer Battalion at Tunbridge he was adjutant. He was with the famous Force D in Mesopotamia, serving with the 14th Division, and he afterwards returned to India to join Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Tighe's staff at Poona.

Lieutenant-Colonel Elphinstone-Dalrymple goes to the headquarters of Army music at Twickenham at the age of forty-two, and carries with him the traditions of his regiment for good music, as the Royal Artillery bands, mounted and foot, have a world-wide reputation. Early in the War he was Adjutant with the Regular Artillery, and was also on the Dardanelles staff in association with the gunnery chief, Sir Webb Gillman, and other artillerists. He was with Lord Allenby in Egypt and Palestine, and came home for a long spell of service in Ireland.

What will be known as the "African Olympic Games" are to be held at Alexandria in 1927. The Egyptian Government has decided to subsidise the Games.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Turkey and Foreign Capital.

An interesting point was raised in the Angora Assembly by the leader of the Opposition, who complained that the Government had loaded the Budget with a large expenditure on public works that could well be given to foreign groups. In this matter the Turkish Government finds itself in a quandary. The Budget for the current year shows a deficit of seventeen million Turkish pounds, and it is precisely this sum that is allocated to public works, over and above an expenditure of nearly sixty-two millions on National Defence and Gendarmerie, out of a total expenditure of one hundred and sixty-two millions. There can be no doubt that the Government would gladly see foreign capital interesting itself in Turkey; but up to the present either the capital that the Turks would like to see offering itself has not come forward, or that which has offered has propounded terms which are unacceptable. In these circumstances the Government has been compelled to make provision on paper for at least a modicum of the public works so urgently needed in the country.

Concessions in Turkey.

It is reported that the Deutsche Bank and a German firm in Frankfurt have obtained a concession to work the valuable copper mines at Arghana, north-west of Diarbekr, in Asia Minor. These mines, it will be recalled, were at one time virtually promised to the French, for, by a supplementary agreement to the Angora Treaty, the Turkish Government pledged itself to take under advisement the award to French capitalists of concessions for the exploitation of the Arghana copper mines, and for the development of cotton-growing in Cilicia. In spite of the many months' stay of M. Mougin in Angora—many Frenchmen, I fear, will say on account of it—French stock in Turkey is at a discount these days. As far as I am aware, British firms have made no serious bid for this particular concession, and, if that is so, not much capital can be made out of the grant to German houses, as far as Great Britain is concerned. Turkey is in dire need of money; the attempt by the Turks themselves to exploit the mines was melancholy, and in the meantime work on the railway to connect the copper fields with the Baghdad Railway near Nisibin is proceeding apace. If British houses are anxious to obtain concessions in Turkey, now is the time to get busy.

The Egyptian Indemnity.

There will be general approval of the manner in which the British Government intends to dispose of the sum of £500,000 paid by the Egyptian Government as a fine for the murder of Sir Lee Stack. To have placed this money to the credit of the British taxpayer would have made the fine still more of an echo of the indemnity demanded by Italy from Greece for a murder committed under very different conditions, and would have strengthened the dislike taken at the time in many quarters to the imposition of a monetary fine. After the payment of a grant of £40,000 to Lady Stack, and of grants of £3,000 and £5,000 to Sir Lee Stack's aide-de-camp and the chauffeur, the balance of the half-million pounds is to be devoted to benevolent objects in the Sudan, such as education and the treatment of disease. In view of the fact that the Nile Waters Commission has just begun its deliberations, it may be as well if the definite allocation of the balance of the fine is postponed until the Commission has reported. There is some ground for supposing that the best way of regulating the water problem in Egypt will be found to be by means of works in Uganda. Further research in this direction would benefit both Egypt and the Sudan, and the employment of part of the Egyptian fine to this end would be clear proof to the people of Egypt that the imposition of the fine was not prompted by vindictiveness or a spirit of bullying, but was a reasoned course, adopted as the most likely to bring home to those responsible for the murder campaign in Egypt the boomerang effect of their policy.

The Development of Yugoslavia.

A vivid glimpse of one aspect of the problems with which Yugoslavia has been faced in the work of reconstruction and development can be obtained from an illuminating article by M. Varskovitch on the narrow gauge railways of the country. Throughout the Balkans the question of communications is the key to development, and in Yugoslavia's case the problem to be solved is the utilisation of various systems of railways which were not designed for the purpose which they are now called upon to perform. Yugoslavia may, however, be considered fortunate in that it is not a question with her of building up *de novo*, though vast schemes of new construction work have still to be undertaken.

The British Industries Fair.

This week saw the opening of the British Industries Fair at Birmingham. After so many years of the White City section it seems strange to think of the whole Fair being housed elsewhere, and it is difficult to see the advisability of it, for the pending exhibition will surely interfere with the Fair at Birmingham as much or as little as it would if the White City section had been preserved as a separate entity. But it is no good to dwell on this now, and one can only hope that the united Fair will be the success it should be in view of the generally improving trade position.

COMMENTATOR.

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A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.

By ARTHUR CARR.

(*Continued from page 172.*)

Damascus.

For me to try to describe the feeling one experiences on arriving in this, the "oldest city of civilisation in the world," would be impossible. A city teeming with memories, especially for Christians—a city evoking memories of St. Paul, and in which still exists the street called "Straight." Forests of minarets rising above beautiful domes from out the bosom of this green-carpeted city, fed by perennial rivers by whose crystal waters tradition says that Abraham, on his march westward, lingered, and ruled the city in peace. At a first glance one only sees mud walls, as in many Eastern cities, and badly paved streets. But behind these mud walls and wretched mud alleys are splendid houses in Damascus, and if one has the good fortune to enter, one is simply dazzled by barbaric splendour. In the gardens snowy white fountains play amongst lemon trees and trellised vines; one walks on marble pavements along walls frescoed and decorated with mosaics and Persian tiles. Only in Persia have I seen similar gardens. Damascus, with its river running through its centre, reminded me, above all things, of another sacred city, Meshed, which also has its splendid mosque and its central running river. I should like to spend six months in Damascus to explore its mysteries and beauties. However, I must leave the description of its charms to a more facile pen than mine.

The Desert in a Buick.

We left Damascus on Friday morning at 9 o'clock, September 19, direct for Baghdad. It took us a long time to get clear of the narrow street leading to the bazaar, as this was absolutely crowded with vehicles, camels, and so on. However, we finally got clear, and ran for many miles along a good road bordered on both sides by luxuriant, wide-spreading trees. Then the trees grew more sparsely, the going was more rough, the vast spaces of the desert loomed before us, where nothing grew but a low scrub. Then we passed a signpost marked "To Aleppo" on our left. We went to the right, the direct route almost as the crow flies for Baghdad. For hours we sped on, mile after mile, nothing but scrub and sand, not a blade of grass, not an animal, not even a bird, for nothing can live here where there is no water. The sand was hard and smooth, making an ideal track, and our Buick did an easy fifty miles per hour. There were three cars in the convoy, with a distance between each of a few miles. At 1.30 all three cars drew up and lunch was prepared. A fire was lit, and certain dishes were warmed up and others cooked; also enormous-sized Thermos flasks were brought out and tea was served all round. I enjoyed the food, which was very good, but I think I never enjoyed a cup of tea so much in all my life. Some of the passengers had drunk from the water-bags specially provided, but as I have ever made it a rule never, if avoidable, to drink water on my Eastern travels, I think I enjoyed the tea all the more. Fruit also was provided, of which I ate sparingly, knowing the dangers of eating much uncooked fruit in hot climes; for although we were in the middle of September, the heat in the desert was very great. Particularly did I warn a young American against eating too much fruit and drinking too much water. However, he only laughed good-humouredly and said he was all right. He was a fine young fellow, about twenty-two years of age and over 6 feet in height. He had cause to remember my warning later. In Baghdad he became ill, and later on I left him in charge of the American doctor in Kermanshah very poorly. His destination was Hamadan, and I hope he recovered and got there later. I never heard.

After we had passed about an hour, all was packed up, we each got in our respective cars, and we were off again. Ever in front of us and stretching to the horizon sand, and more sand. The sun was now directly overhead, and if we got out of the car we had not to forget our topé (helmet) for a single minute. As we went along at forty, and sometimes fifty, miles an hour, and as I regarded the two cars in front, I was struck with the insignificance of these machines against the broad expanse, nothing to be seen—only these fast-moving, distance-annihilating machines. Science was conquering Nature's obstacles. Darkness descended, as it does in the East, suddenly. The sun drops down over the Western horizon, and it is dark.

At 9.30 the cars again drew up. It was time for the evening meal. A large camp fire was lit, made from empty boxes dragged from the motors, and cooking commenced. Whilst this was going on we strolled about within a short distance of the cars. What a night! The sky was one mass of stars—not stars as we understand them, but brilliant shining orbs, seeming to hang from the middle air. Then, as one looked, a wonderful sight was presented. The waning moon rose and threw over the desert a wonderful light. As I watched the drivers round the camp fire cooking the dinner and our small company, all told, nine passengers and three drivers, gathered there in the middle of the Syrian desert, I thought how little those at home could realise such a scene. It was beautiful, it

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was weird, and, to my mind, just wonderful. Hundreds of miles away from civilisation, from water and food, and yet here we were with plenty of everything we required, and we had no doubt but that those men on those machines would drive us into Baghdad the next day, as they did.

Again we were away on an all-night non-stop run to the City of the Caliphs. We did not camp in the desert, as, being all men, we preferred to go right through. There is not much to tell, in fact, the cars ran so well; on our car not even a tyre was changed the whole journey; it was almost disappointing. We slept right through the night in the car, and except for a jolt now and again it was fairly comfortable. The next morning I woke up as the sun shot into the sky. On and on, then we got our first glimpse of the Euphrates, and from there onwards the desert began to change, more and more green along the banks of this mighty river. Then we came to Ramadi, and saw the guiding marks on the desert for the aeroplanes. We had been running since Rutba on their track. About noon we crossed the Euphrates at Fellujah. We stayed here some thirty minutes, and then continued our journey along the now burning sands; nearer and nearer we approached, then over the Tigris to Baghdad, which we finally reached at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, September 20.

Actual running time from Damascus to Baghdad, allowing for meals, twenty-six hours. The Nairn Transport Company seems to me a good business proposition, and is run on good, sound lines. As a business man I should think it will prove a financial success, the more so as, with the exception perhaps of a few weeks in the rainy season, the cars can run all the year round. I can recommend the journey as being speedy and comfortable. This was my first visit to Baghdad, and from accounts I had heard from certain other travellers I thought I should be disappointed; but now it seems to me that these men must have been very lacking in imagination.

Baghdad.

Baghdad is for the most part a city of narrow, winding, evil-smelling streets, filled with wretched dogs and more wretched people, just as one might say of almost any other Eastern city. But for me it held an indescribable charm, knowing that every foot of land of this city of Baghdad is replete with history and romance. One might easily imagine Haroun al Rashid, with his Vizier, treading its streets amongst this truly cosmopolitan Oriental crowd, even as he did hundreds of years ago. For the city is still pervaded with mystery. In the reign of Al Mansur, was it not the seat of Arabic learning, literature, glory, and romance? Did not Hulaka here massacre, murder, and destroy? Afterwards, did not Timur wreck even what was left, turning a fair land, well watered, and luxuriant in verdure, into an unproductive wilderness? And such it has remained for hundreds of years. Baghdad, with a mighty river like the Tigris flowing through its centre, must always have great possibilities. The soil of Iraq is rich, and with a proper system of watering or irrigation this waste desert land might once more become the granary of the East or the cotton field of Lancashire. After hundreds of years of stagnation, with modern science and engineering, and now that the rule of the Turk has been shattered, let us hope that under a wise, progressive Government prosperity will return to this land once more, and that Baghdad will renew its ancient glory.

Iraq to Persia.

I left Baghdad on Sunday, September 21, at 9 p.m. by train for Khanikin, where I arrived next morning at 7.30 a.m. Messrs. Lumsden and Greene, of Baghdad, had arranged for a motor of the Parsons Transport Company to meet me here. The Parsons Transport Co. (of whom Messrs. Lumsden and Greene are the agents in Baghdad) runs in conjunction with the Nairn Transport Co., and carries the mails from Baghdad to Teheran. I left Khanikin at 9 a.m. for Kermanshah *en route* for Teheran. From Khanikin to Kermanshah there is very little of interest for the traveller. The present road is good and well made. I understand that a railway was at one time projected, and it seems to me there would be very little difficulty in making such a line; at any rate, from an engineering point of view. I arrived in Kermanshah at 6 p.m., September 22. Kermanshah is the capital of Persian Kurdistan, and here the routes from Baghdad, Ispahan, and Teheran meet. The town lies very prettily amongst a grove of trees, but is otherwise uninteresting. I was kindly invited to dinner by the manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia, Mr. Coffey, whose wife is the daughter of Mr. Stevens, a well-known—I might say an historic—figure in Tabriz, of whom I shall have more to say later. Next day I continued my journey, but this time the Buick car had its work cut out, because between Kermanshah and Hamadan there are some steep climbs to be made through the mountains. The road, however, is good, and we reached this latter town, situated at the northern base of Mount Elevend, 160 miles from Teheran, at 5 p.m., after six hours' actual running. At Hamadan the routes from Baghdad, Erivan, Teheran, and Ispahan converge, and accordingly the town is the seat of a large transit trade. Also here is a large barracks, in which are stationed many Persian troops. This town has every appearance of prosperity, and should a railway ever be made would undoubtedly become a most important, if not the most important, city in Persia. Here is a very good hotel, called, I think, "Hotel de France," where I stayed the night.

Hamadan to Teheran.

As I wanted to arrive at Teheran, 160 miles away, the next day, I left Hamadan early. In fact, the Buick was under way at 5 a.m. The going was fairly good, and, after climbing the last mountain, we came down on to the Kasvin plains with the road stretching level and white for miles ahead. It was fortunate, however, that we started early, for between Hamadan and Teheran we had five tyre punctures, with the result that it was exactly midnight when we entered the "Lala Zar," the main street of Teheran, on September 24. The whole of the above journey from London to Teheran had been completed in fifteen days, or fourteen days' actual travelling time.

(To be continued.)

Algerian Oilfields.—Reports from the Algerian property—in which the Algerian Oilfields, Ltd., is interested—state that the production for January was 121 tons. Wells Nos. 38 and 39 have reached a depth of 188 metres and 114 metres respectively. A new well that has been put down—No. 40—has reached a depth of 60 metres.

According to Reuter's Delhi correspondent, it is understood that the Government of India has offered to grant a license to the Indian Radio Telegraph Company to operate a beam wireless station in India for communication with the United Kingdom, subject to an agreement, of which the terms will shortly be signed.

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., have received an order for four low temperature 4 ft. diameter by 50 ft. long fusion rotary retorts, to be installed at the Burghlee Colliery at Loanhead, Midlothian. This plant, which is being manufactured at the Barrow-in-Furness works of Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., will work on colliery waste coal for the purpose of obtaining oil and other products.

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Shipping Intelligence.

STAGNATION AT FIUME.

Fiume presents a startling contrast to Trieste, says the American Commercial Attaché at Rome in a recent report, for in place of great activity one finds complete stagnation. Under the agreement with Yugoslavia, the city and the old port of Fiume were annexed to Italy, with which they are connected by a narrow strip of territory which runs along the coast for a distance of nearly 10 miles. East of the port is a triangular area, separated by a short canal on one hand and by a river on the other, which is called the Delta; at the south-west corner of this area is the small outer basin known as Porto Baross. All of this area was annexed to Yugoslavia, to which one of the principal basins of the old port also was leased. The principal railway line from Fiume leads directly to Yugoslavia, and, although there is also rail connection with Italy, it offers only a roundabout connection with the territory that formerly constituted the hinterland of the port.

Fiume's hopes of prosperity after its annexation by Italy have not been realised. Whereas Porto Baross and the Delta show signs of great activity, the old port of Fiume, with its fine equipment, is empty, and there appears to be no immediate prospect of any improvement, for the facilities at the disposal of Yugoslavia seem to meet its requirements to such an extent that the basin leased from Italy is not being used, and it will not be easy again to attract traffic from Hungary and other territory which has now for years been following other routes. The lumber trade, which has always constituted an important factor of the trade of Fiume, was concentrated in the Delta, and there it continues in the hands of Yugoslavia. Plans are being made for the provision of new yards, etc., for the handling of lumber on the Italian side, but the extent to which it will be possible to compete with Yugoslavia is problematic.

Altogether the depression at Fiume has reached a point where it will be an extremely difficult matter to turn the tide toward a real improvement. Owing to the manner in which the new boundary has been drawn, the city still has to depend primarily on the transit trade, for it is practically isolated, so far as local trade with Italian territory is concerned; the outlook for the population, which has dwindled to not much more than one-half of the former number, is not encouraging.

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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 parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, February 23). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Dumana for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 27); s.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 2).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, February 28).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, March 6); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, March 4).

NEW COMPANIES.

Abyssinian Produce Co.

The Abyssinian Produce Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £20,000, in £1 shares. The objects are: To acquire (1) the businesses *inter alia* of produce buyers, importers and exporters, and merchants carried on by Noel Webster at 83, Cannon Street, E.C., as N. Webster and Sons, and (2) the similar business carried on by Colonel D. A. Sandford at Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, and elsewhere; to carry on, develop, and extend the businesses in Abyssinia and elsewhere of buyers and exporters of and dealers in hides, skins, coffee, wax, wool, mohair, horns, and generally all kinds of Abyssinian and other produce, and to carry on in Europe, Abyssinia, and elsewhere in Africa the businesses of shippers and importers of all kinds of machinery and merchandise, fellmongers, cleaners, scourers, wool brokers, pressers, warehousemen, carriers, forwarding agents, shipowners, etc. The first directors are: C. A. Chidell (director of African Produce Co., Ltd.); A. Moulsdale, hide merchant; Colonel D. A. Sandford, Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, hide exporter; and H. W. Chadwick, 21, Beechcroft Mansions, Streatham, S.W., hide broker. Colonel D. A. Sandford may retain office as director so long as he holds the office of general manager in Abyssinia and holds £2,000 shares.

Asiatic Petroleum Co. (Syria) Ltd.

The Asiatic Petroleum Company (Syria), Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £5,000 in £10 shares. The objects are to act as producers, refiners, transporters, and distributors of petroleum, etc. The registered office is at St. Helen's Court, Great St. Helen's, E.C.3.

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THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS OF YUGOSLAVIA.

In an article in the current issue of the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade M. Varshovitch deals with the narrow gauge railway system of Yugoslavia, and points out that the problem of organising communications in the country has been complicated by the fact that Yugoslavia has inherited two kinds of railway systems. It has been urged in some quarters that the narrow gauge system should be done away with, and this has been supported by the bad results of the narrow gauge system in Serbia, but in Bosnia and Herzegovina the narrow gauge lines have rendered very good service. M. Varshovitch maintains that it is not a question of considering the utility of the narrow gauge lines, but of examining the organisation of the system. He continues :—

The narrow gauge lines cannot be transformed into normal gauge lines for the simple reason that the whole system of construction of a narrow gauge line is absolutely different from that of a normal gauge line. The 0.76 cm. lines built with a radius of about 60 m., while the more important normal gauge lines have a radius of over 250 m. Besides this, the gradients on the narrow gauge lines are as steep as 30 degrees, while those of the normal gauge have very rarely such gradients.

As a general rule, the route taken by a narrow gauge line in a country divided by rivers and other obstacles does not coincide with that of a normal gauge line, and therefore to transform a narrow gauge line into a normal gauge line simply means, in practice, to build a normal gauge line alongside the narrow one and quite independent of it, and then to abandon the narrow one entirely, as was done in Bosnia. In the State narrow gauge system in Bosnia, which includes some 938 kms., there are about 285 kms which would entirely disappear in the case of the line being transformed eventually. But that does not mean to say that the other 635 kms. could be transformed into normal gauge line, for, as we have pointed out before, the route taken by a normal gauge line rarely coincides with that followed by a narrow gauge line.

As narrow gauge lines can more easily adapt themselves to the country than normal gauge ones (a reason why they are found in greater proportion in mountainous countries) they have a special importance in Yugoslavia.

Half of our territories are covered by the Dinaric Alps and their ramifications, which make it a difficult and mountainous country. The constructions of a normal gauge system which could satisfy all the needs of the country and render possible the complete exploitation of all its numerous natural riches, would not be possible on account of financial reasons. It follows therefore that, even if we had no narrow gauge system we should have to create one. Therefore we should perfect and complete the narrow gauge system which already covers 3,500 kms., so as to make it into a system capable of satisfying all the needs, from the point of view of transport, of one-half of the kingdom.

No railway programme could be more rational than that which includes the completion of the narrow gauge system ; its realisation would entail little expense, and, nevertheless, would give great profits. This programme would include :—

(1) The connection of Belgrade with the narrow gauge system by a line from Belgrade to Obrenovatz (40 kms.).

(2) The construction of the Vishegrad, Fotcha, Trebigne line (215 kms.). By the construction of these two lines of a total length of 255 kms., the shortest line to the Adriatic, Belgrade to Grouj, 580 kms. long, would be obtained. At the same time a connection with the Kotor Estuary would be made by a line 636 kms. long.

(3) The construction of the Obrenovatz, Loznitza, Zvornik, Touzla line, 146 kms. long, and the Doboji, Banja-Louka line, 25 kms. These two lines would connect certain districts accounted among the richest of the country, such as the Tamnava district, the Machva district, the Spretcha district, and the valleys of the Bosna and the Vrbas, with the capital. The greatest coal basin, the coal reserves of which constitute half of the entire reserves of the country, would then be directly connected with the capital. The salt of Simin Han, near Touzla, cannot be fully exploited at present, because of the lack of transport facilities, and so it is that we have to import salt from abroad, although the supplies from these deposits would be sufficient to satisfy the needs of the whole country.

(4) The line from Sarajevo to Mostar is the only one connecting the narrow gauge system with Grouj and the Kotor Estuary. On this line, in the Ivan mountains, the watershed between Sarajevo and Mostar, is an obstacle created by a hairpin bend on a very steep slope. This obstacle literally stifles transport, especially at the present time, when Serbia is connected with Bosnia only by the Oujitza-Vardishte line. Communication can only be developed if a necessary alteration is made at this point—that is to say, if a tunnel 5,400 metres long is cut and a new line 30 kms. long constructed. The total cost of this alteration, including the cutting of the tunnel, would be about 14 million dinars, and it would increase the capacity of the line from 600,000 tons to over 1,000,000 tons, a figure to which the traffic of the district would amount most probably within one or two years. The export trade of the country, and, above all, that of the export of wood, which is at present greatly handicapped by the lack of transport facilities, would be favoured by the construction of this line.

(5) The junction of the Timok basin, the Serbian Ruhr, with the Danube by the Zayetchar, Pojarevatz, Danube line (85 kms. of new line).

(6) The direct connection of Montenegro with Serbia by the Virpazar, Podgoritza, Biletche line (175 kms.) and the junction with the Vishegrad, Trebigne line so that the port of Bar should be connected up and the question of an outlet for Montenegro be solved.

(7) The connection of the railway of the Steinheiss company in Western Bosnia (400 kms.) with Shibenik, their natural port (68 kms. of new line).

(8) The junction of the whole narrow gauge system with Split by a line from Tchaplina, Imotski, Split (147 kms.).

(9) The junction of Zvornic with Oustipratcha by way of Han Piessak (147 kms.) in order to give a direct outlet to the Drina plain and that of the Sava through Grouj by way of Fotcha and Trebigne.

The realisation of this programme of narrow gauge lines of over 1,078 kms. in length of new line would not cost more than 120,000,000 dinars.

Steaua Romana (British) is advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for January was 23,740 tons.

Progress reports of Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., and allied companies for January show that the total crude oil production for the month was 22,258 tons and the through-put of the refineries 21,600 tons.

The Egyptian State Railways intend to invite the submission of designs of a new type of Pullman car suited to local conditions. Such cars would be utilised for tourist traffic in winter and summer between Alexandria and Cairo.

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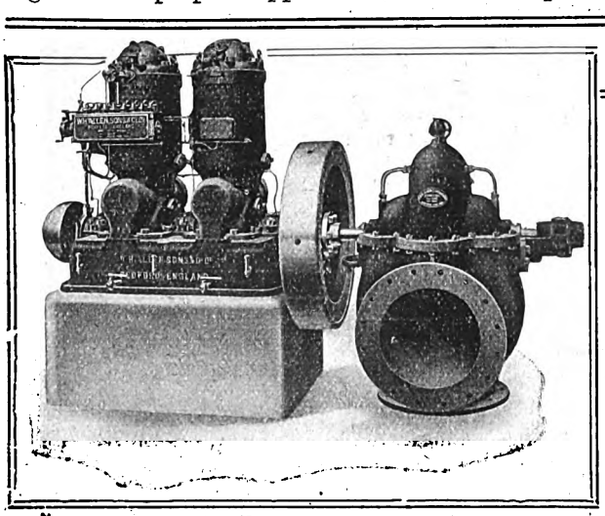
POPULATION PROBLEMS FROM THE INDIAN CENSUS.

In point of view of interest and importance the statistics of occupation are the most valuable of all those obtained at a periodical census. At the same time they are undoubtedly the most difficult to collect with accuracy and compile with precision. In the first place, we must decide whether we desire to know the means of subsistence of the whole population or the occupation of workers only or both. If we wish to record occupation as well as means of subsistence as has been done since 1901 in India it is necessary to distinguish between workers and dependants, and here we are faced with the first difficulty, since a large part of the population, including many women and children, contribute by work something to the resources of a household without necessarily being full-time workers. Again a man may have several occupations, all of which are remunerative. He should obviously be entered under the category which includes his primary or most remunerative occupation, but it is not always easy to say which this is, especially in such cases as agricultural labour combined with weaving, or fishing with boating and so forth, which form the dual occupations of so large a part of the lower classes. The distinctions between worker and dependant and between dual occupations involve subtleties of interpretation which continually give trouble in individual cases and the extent to which the occupations of women and children actually contribute to the income of a family must always be a matter of opinion and give rise to inconsistencies in the returns. Having obtained our statistics, it is necessary to classify them under appropriate categories. Experience shows that the Indian statistics are not sufficiently accurate to admit of an extremely detailed classification. The scheme used at the present census is the same, with some small modifications, as that introduced in 1911 by Sir Edward Gait, and is founded on a classification scheme devised by Bertillon, which has been adopted in a modified form for the census of England and of some of the dominions. It must, however, be remembered that the occupational statistics collected in the census give at best only a general sketch of the functional distribution of the people, and are too vague and imperfect to afford any detailed comparison in most of the smaller categories with statistics of the past or figures of other countries.

India is essentially an agricultural country and agriculture proper supports 224 millions of persons, or 71 per cent. of the population of the Empire. If we add the pastoral and hunting occupations, the percentage is 73. Industries support 10 per cent. of the population but the bulk of these are unorganised industries connected with the supply of personal and household necessities and the simple implements of work. Organised industries occupy only 1 per cent. of the people. In trade and transport on which less than 6 per cent. and 2 per cent. respectively depend, a not inconsiderable number are connected with the disposal of the various kinds of agricultural products. The administration and protection of the country engages less than five millions or 1½ per cent. of the population and the remainder are supported by domestic and miscellaneous occupations. Though the extent to which agriculture predominates varies in different provinces, there is no region in which it does not in some form easily take first place. Of industrial workers the largest proportions in the local populations are in the Punjab, the United Provinces, and in Bombay. The industrial occupations are, of course, in India mostly of the cottage industry type. In Bombay the development of organised industries is of considerable importance, but it is largely confined to a few of the biggest cities. Compared with 1911, agriculturists have increased a little faster than the total population; so also has trade, especially trade in textiles. Industries, however, have substantially decreased, the textile workers having dropped considerably. As has already been said, however, too much emphasis must not be laid on these comparisons. The huge amorphous category of "labour," which fluctuates between agricultural and industrial employment and is capable of being recorded equally under either group, is almost sufficient to turn the scale, where the general increase in the population has been so small as in the present decade. But there seems to have been a real increase in the number of cultivators in the United Provinces at the expense of labour, and the rise in the Punjab is undoubtedly due to the extension of the canal irrigation areas.

The term "agricultural occupation" includes the owners of land who receive rent from the land, the actual cultivators of the land, and the farm and field labourers. We distinguish the figures under these various categories, and some interesting comparisons can be made between these figures themselves and between them and figures obtainable from other official records. For example, we can illustrate the varying size of landed property in Bengal by calculating that the number of cultivators per 100 landlords varies from over 17,000 in



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the Chittagong Hills to 750 in Howrah. Or an even more interesting comparison can be made between the number of cultivators (workers) and the acreage cultivated. The figures for some of the main provinces show variations between 1,215 acres per 100 cultivators in Bombay to 251 acres in the United Provinces. India is a country of comparatively small holdings, often of the allotment size, but cultivated on an extensive system applicable to large areas and under a method which, as it utilises to the full neither the energy of the worker nor the productivity of the soil, is the reverse of economic. In the British territory of Bengal there is an average of 2¼ acres to each agricultural worker, including cultivator and labourer. It is in such figures that the explanation of the poverty of the cultivator lies. The cultivation of such a plot cannot employ a man for more than a comparatively small number of days in the year, and even in the Punjab Mr. Calvert estimates that the work done by the ordinary cultivator does not represent more than 150 days of full labour in twelve months, and that even in the occupied days the idea of the Indian cultivator of what constitutes a full day's task is well below that prevalent in more progressive countries. If Mr. Ghandi could find to occupy the leisure of the cultivator something which is not quite so economically hopeless as yarn-spinning he would confer a real boon on the Indian peasant. Another interesting comparison could be made between the number of field labourers and the number of cultivators. For example, in Bengal the number of field and farm labourers works out to an average of one labourer to every five cultivators, and in Eastern Bengal to as few as 1 labourer to 8 cultivators. We may contrast the conditions in England and Wales, where, according to the census of 1911, there were over 3 hired labourers to each farmer, and in 1851, before the spread of machinery, there were in England about 6 labourers to each farmer. In the United Provinces the proportion is approximately 1 labourer to every 6 cultivators. These figures again illustrate the fact that the average holding is usually so small that the cultivation of it is not too much for the owner of it himself to accomplish.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE.

Wiring materials and devices used in Greece generally conform to the practice of Germany, influenced by that of the United States (says the United States Assistant Trade Commissioner at Athens, Mr. C. E. Dickerson, in a recent report). Although house installations are exempt from inspection and wiring materials and devices are not generally tested or approved by any government service or private organisation, installations in factories or electric light and power generating plants must conform to regulations prescribed by law. This law pertains to large installations only; it does not limit wiring materials or devices specifically.

In wiring new dwellings it is customary to string the wire or flexible pair, whichever is used, on porcelain knobs on the surface of the walls and ceilings. Tubing concealed in the walls is used occasionally in the homes of the wealthy, and in the new and more expensive buildings. Armoured cable is used only in a few large industrial installations and in generating plants. Wire in rigid iron conduits on the surface is occasionally seen, but Bergmann tubing, lead-covered wires, and wooden casings are not used. The metric (German) standard copper wire gauge is employed, and there are no restrictions as to size. Rubber-covered wire, as well as that covered with cotton or silk, is used.

Rotary switches and the Edison screw socket are in general use. Occasionally in new, expensive houses plug fittings are installed at or near the floor level. The Edison screw plug fuse is the most common, although American cartridge-type fuses have been introduced recently to a very small extent. German "Z" type plug fuses are occasionally found, but no British "thumb-grip" types are used. American fuse blocks are not favoured, the objection being that the fuses are too close together. Electric meters are installed for each household, the usual size being 3 to 5 amperes. In case the tenant of a portion of a house pays separately for his light or power, a small individual meter is installed.

No rules or regulations require the use of armoured cable or any other special form of conductor in the wiring of old dwellings. As most buildings in Greece are constructed of stone or brick, it is difficult to wire houses after they are built. Wires are frequently passed through doors and windows in wiring old houses, and surface wiring is generally used throughout.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Uniforms.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms required during the financial year 1925-26. February 20.

Condensers. The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones invite tenders for condensers.—February 26.

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Port and Lighthouses Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of various stores, comprising paints (mixed and in powder), varnishes, oils (boiled and raw linseed, bicycle, colza, clock, etc.), shellac, coal, and wood tar, tallow, soap, etc. March 6. (D.O.T.)

Filter.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a mechanical filter, complete with accessories and necessary foundations, and also the supply of material for two existing filters. March 16. (D.O.T.)

Printing Plates.—The Surveyor General of Egypt, Gîza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of aluminium lithographic printing plates required for 1925-1926. March 18.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing and necessaries required for the Egyptian Police and Ghafir Services during 1925. The principal requirements include woollen blankets, ankle boots, chevrons, non-inflammable shirt collars, cotton shirts and drawers, cotton gloves, cotton and woollen socks, uniforms, boot blacking, heel-balls and palm-oil soap. Tenders will be received by the Director of Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, up to March 28. (D.O.T.)

Launch.—The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a motor launch for the Public Health Department. March 16. (D.O.T.)

Yugoslavia.

Knives.—The Serb-Croat-Slovene Administration invites tenders for the supply of 2,184 knives for use in tobacco and cigarette factories. March 10. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Turbo-Generator.—The Municipal Electric Works of Timisoara (Transylvania) invites tenders for the supply of a turbo-generator, Scott transformers, a high-tension feeder, and various accessories. March 26 (D.O.T.)

Locomotives.—H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. Charles Goodwin) reports that a firm has approached him asking to be furnished with quotations for a locomotive. The type of locomotive required is about 70 h.p. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Sacks.—The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt invites tenders for the supply and delivery at the port of Smyrna of 400,000 sacks. March 15. (D.O.T.)

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Sakel Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended February 5, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very firm for Sakel and rather quiet for Uppers. The net changes on the week are the following :— Sakellaridis : $5.15 up for March, $4.80 up for May, $3.65 up for July, $1 up for November; $0.60 up for January, 1926; Ashmouni : $0.80 up for February, $0.90 up for April, $1 up for June, $1.55 up for October.

Much activity and excitement has prevailed during the whole week in the Sakel market, and March during to-day's session touched $65.90, a record price for the season. The rise has been again almost entirely due to speculative buying; existing Sakel stocks are far from ample, especially the tenderable grades, and fully good fair spot cotton keeps a high premium over fully good fair futures, making tendering against futures very unattractive. The continued rise has put holders into a strong position, and has made them, in general, very exacting; there is still a small demand from abroad which absorbs the small amount offering, and local bull speculators thus have the field free to operate leisure. It is certainly a rather dangerous situation, as old crop prices are being raised so much higher than new crop. Ashmounis have been rather quieter; the demand from abroad has been moderate, and if prices have advanced it is mainly in sympathy with the rise in Sakel. At the first February tender Crs. 7,250 dockets were issued; they were taken up by exporters. Egyptians in Liverpool have this week been rather firm, and the advance in prices has been even more marked there than in Alexandria. More attention has been paid by the trade to new crop options, and it is said that a few orders have been placed with spinners. The week's receipts amount to Crs.109,691, against exports Crs.204,385 The stock stands at Crs.1,796,976.

Spot.—Minet el Bassal has been rather quieter this week, and demand has been distinctly poor, though a little more inquiry has been met with the last two days. Sales amount to about 16,000 B/s, of which we estimate 6,600 B/s Sakel, 6,800 B/s Uppers, 1,900 B/s Zagora, 150 B/s Brown, 150 B/s pilion, and 400 B/s white.

Sakellaridis.—Rather more interest has been taken in the lower grades this week, although the good grades continue to absorb the greater portion of the business and command high premiums. Spot premiums are rather dearer for the grades above fully good fair; for good fair and fully good fair they are without much change, and for the grades below good fair they are decidedly easier. We would draw spinners' attention to the comparatively reasonable prices of the lower qualities of Sakellarides, which have not followed the full rise in contracts, as compared with the high grades, which are at very high premiums on a rising contract market.

Ashmouni and Zagora have been in fairly good request for all qualities, though the demand for Zagora, except for the high grades, has fallen away a little. Spot parities are without much change except for good and better, which are in good request and distinctly dearer.

Pilion has been in small demand. Spot parities are unchanged.

Brown.—A moderate business has been done at about last week's spot parities.

White has met with an improved demand, mainly for medium qualities. Spot parities are considerably cheaper than last week, sellers apparently being anxious to realise their stocks.

Crop, 1925.—Preparation of land is now actively being carried on. The demand for Zagora sowing seed in the Delta is rather smaller than last year, and there is no doubt that a good many growers in the Northern and Central districts who planted Zagora will revert to Sakellaridis. Present Nile gauges readings forecast a supply of water during the summer about equal to that of last year.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Position Improving.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended February 14 states :—

There is little change to report in the state of this market; if anything, conditions are perhaps a little better. Raw cotton has shown a steadily hardening tendency, and this may have caused some business to be definitely concluded with regard to which hesitation had previously been displayed. As anticipated, the spinners' ballot resulted in the requisite majority being obtained for the curtailment of hours from 39¼ to 35 per week, and this will be put into effect. This result has had a steadying effect on prices.

Yarn.—More business has been done during the past week, though the difference can only be called moderate. Prices of yarn spun from American cotton are higher to the full extent of the advance in the raw material. The actual transactions passing in Egyptian qualities remain small having regard to the exceedingly high price of the raw staple. Shipments of yarn last month amounted to 15,904,900 lb., against 13,522,700 lb. in December and 10,991,500 lb. in January, 1924. These figures, of course, demonstrate the more active conditions of the trade during December.

Cloth.—Though no individual overseas market has shown special activity, there has been a slight all-round increase in the business done for miscellaneous markets. China and India have been slightly more active, and Egypt and the Levant have placed very acceptable orders. Shipments of cotton piece-goods last month amounted to 402,808,400 sq. yds., against 409,566,00 sq. yds. in December, and 353,965,900 sq. yds. in January of last year.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, there has been a very firm tone in the American raw cotton market. "Spot" sales have been larger, and, for better qualities considerably higher prices than that quoted below have had to be paid. In spite of a further rise in Egyptian varieties there has been a fair amount of buying. In this section fluctuations in "futures" have been very wide, and the market is thoroughly disorganised. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 13.62; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 35.40.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Brighter Tone.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 11 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A somewhat brighter tone has been noticeable on the spot this week, and, in spite of a further substantial rise in prices, a welcome addition to the volume of sales has been recorded. Business remains decidedly patchy in character, and prices all round still show considerable irregularity. Manchester advices have been less pessimistic, and the cry of "high prices killing all business" has not been heard quite so frequently. It is significant that there has been decidedly more inquiry for Sakel, with F.G.F. quoted in the neighbourhood of 35.00d., than there was a month ago, when the same cotton was quoted sixpence a pound lower!

Practically all grades of Sakel have been inquired for, and prices paid have ranged from 8½d. to 39.00d. Alexandria has maintained a very strong basis, and it is, generally speaking, impossible to place cotton, the selling limit for which is based on that market. When actually tested with a cabled bid, however, sellers have been found to be not unreasonable. Untenderable cotton has eased still further, and holders have evinced increased nervousness as to the position. Uppers, which last week showed some signs of weakening, have since recovered and are now firmly held. The best staple lots are already becoming scarce, and with a difference of 16.00d. per lb. between the quotations of F.G.F. Sakel and Upper, it seems not unreasonable to expect that a further hardening may be imminent.

Considerable interest has been shown this week in White cotton, a good style of which changed hands this week at about 33.00d. Spinners are evidently finding it a useful stop-gap. Pilion has continued in fair request, and the cheaper lots are being rapidly swept up. The better style is on offer at from 26.00d. to 27.00d., but the demand at this price is small. A small business has been done in Sudan cotton, chiefly in the Kassala variety, and one isolated lot of last year's Tokar Sakel changed hands at about 38.00d. per lb.

C.i.f. business has again been quiet, but at the commencement of the week there were reports that here and there a disposition on the part of spinners to buy forward had again become manifest. This movement, however, lasted only a short time. Some interest has been displayed in New Crop cotton, a rather unusual feature for this time of the season. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 6th instant were returned as 5,631 bales. Estimated sales, 3,200 Egyptian and 400 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are advanced 225 points; Brown cotton has been raised 110 points (all quotations still nominal) and Uppers have hardened 10 points. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day 35.90d.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Kermanshah, January 10.

It is hoped that after the signature of the Treaty between Persia and Iraq the Persian Government will withdraw the prohibition of pilgrimage in Mesopotamia and will regulate conditions. There are, on an average, 100,000 Persians who visit each year the different shrines round about Baghdad, each spending on an average £40, partly in goods which they sell on the road or in Mesopotamia, and partly in silver. This pilgrim movement will help to assist the exchange between Persia and Iraq, as well as business transactions in the country.

Jaffa, January 24.

The export of oranges continues at a normal rate. A slight improvement is to be noted in prices on foreign markets. Prices of cereals are gradually rising, and seem to be firm.

USE OF ELECTRICITY IN TURKEY.

Constantinople is the only city in Turkey that has a central electric power plant. This plant generates alternating current which is transformed to 550 volts for the electric street car service and to 110 volts for lighting and other household uses (says an American Consular report). Except for such purposes electricity is little used. Some of the larger seaport towns have small installations, but they have no central generating plants. In the principal cities of the interior there are no electric installations capable of supplying more than one or two houses.

The number of people living in electric-lighted homes in Constantinople is estimated to be about 200,000. The total number of central station customers in Constantinople at the end of 1923 was 30,228. The central station operating company is the Société Anonyme Turque d'Electricite, Constantinople, a French-Belgian concern with head offices at Brussels. The generator rating totals 36,000 kilovolt amperes. The same company has another plant located at the end of the Golden Horn at the junction of Silighdar and the river of the Sweet Waters of Europe.

There are no central hydro-electric generating plants in Turkey, nor are there any adequate sites. There are, however, important deposits of coal in the Heraclean coal basin, on the Turkish Black Sea coast, from which coal is shipped to Constantinople.

The generation of electrical energy during 1923 was as follows :—For lighting purposes, 11,550,000 kilowatt hours; for industrial power purposes, 8,320,000; for electric street car service, 7,830,000; for line losses, 5,350,000; total energy generated during 1923, 33,050,000 kilowatt hours. Of the energy distributed in 1923 for lighting purposes, 1,000,000 kilowatt hours were supplied gratuitously for street lights in the city.

Owing to the prevailing economic crisis and business depression, as well as to the departure of certain groups of well-to-do people from this city, and also as a result of the exchange of populations, the distribution of electric energy will undoubtedly show a decrease for the year ended December 31, 1924.

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Capital Paid up - - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - - £5,013,834

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Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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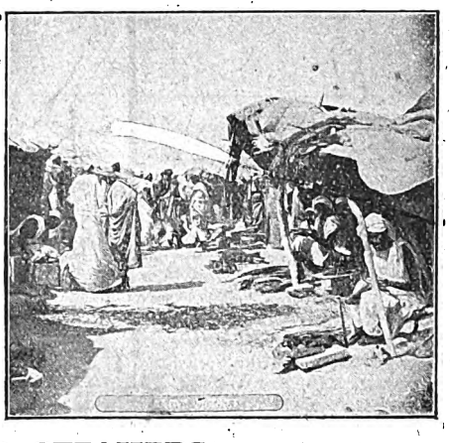

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 720—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

As was to be expected, the Turkish Government has refused to admit the jurisdiction of the League of Nations in the matter of the expulsion of Mgr. Constantine Arapoglou from Constantinople, on the ground that it is a domestic concern of Turkey's. If, therefore, a committee of the League, under the presidency of the Japanese delegate, who is presumably neither a Christian nor a Moslem, investigates the matter, any finding that it may deliver will have academic, rather than practical, interest. From the point of view of the Patriarchate, it is more important that Greece should come to a satisfactory arrangement with Turkey regarding the future than that she should obtain a ruling as to when a particular "exchangeable" is not subject to exchange. The Greek Prime Minister has done well not to allow a discussion on the subject in the Chamber, as the debate would not be likely to pour oil on the troubled waters. Greece will be wise to rely mainly on direct negotiations with Turkey, and for this reason it is to be hoped that the reference of the question to the League of Nations will not unduly delay a final settlement. If Mgr. Constantine VI. were to resign, it would be necessary to appoint a successor, and the steps could then be taken that might with advantage have been taken at the time of the last appointment. In the meantime all attempts to conjure up the bogey of war between Greece and Turkey may be discounted as idle vapourings. Neither country is in the least anxious to fight, and there would have to be a far more important *casus belli* than the fate of Mgr. Constantine to induce either to attack the other. The political situation in Turkey is not such as to require a foreign war to distract attention from internal difficulties.

The Greeks of Constantinople.

Greece has a more legitimate cause for anxiety in the suggestions now being made in the Turkish Press that the Greeks of Constantinople should be exchanged for Turks from Western Thrace. It is not likely that the League of Nations would sanction any such breach of the Lausanne Treaty; but past experience prompts the fear that the *ballon d'essai* may be followed by a deliberate act of defiance. Report credits the President of the Republic with a resolve to get rid, by hook or by crook, of all Greeks in Turkey; on what authority, however, is not stated, and it is difficult to believe that the Turks, after having experienced some of the disadvantages of the wholesale expulsion of the Greeks from Asia Minor, will want to carry the policy to further lengths. On the question as to what gives Greeks in Constantinople the status of having been "established" before October 30, 1918, for the purpose of being exempt from compulsory exchange, the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague has decided that all that was necessary apart from actual residence was "the intention of residing there for an extended period," thus ruling out the Turkish interpretation, which would require various formalities in the way of registration, etc. After this decision Turkey would lose nothing by adopting a policy of live and let live. She has put an end, for many generations, to Greek aspirations to Asia Minor, and from the vantage ground in this connection with which she now starts she can afford to leave Constantinople as the international city that it has always been.

Italy and Egypt.

With the rectification of the Jubaland frontier, Italy has become anxious to secure an adjustment of the boundary line between Cyrenaica and Egypt. In 1919 Great Britain agreed that the oasis of Jarabub, situated just within the present frontier, at a distance of a hundred and thirty miles from Sollum, should be allocated to Italy, but the details of the transfer were left for subsequent discussion. The negotiations on the subject had not been concluded when Great Britain recognised the independence of Egypt in 1922, and the Italian Government was notified that the matter from that moment became one for direct settlement between Egypt and Italy. After an unsuccessful attempt to settle the question with Zaghloul Pasha, the Italian Government has now returned to the subject, in the hope that it will find the Cabinet of Ziwar Pasha more amenable. The moment can

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hardly be considered opportune, in view of the fact that Egypt is in the middle of an electoral contest, and the Government has replied to Italy to this effect. It declares itself animated by the friendliest spirit towards Italy, and to be prepared to carry out any mutually agreeable *modus vivendi* for the maintenance of peace on the frontier and the control of contraband; but it points out that it is not in a position to make any definite settlement in view of the local political situation. The justice of this contention is unchallengeable. Unless Italy can show any pressing reason for an immediate settlement, it is to be hoped that she will allow the matter to stand over for some time. Even if the anti-Zaghloulists obtain a majority at the elections, the Government will not want to inaugurate the new Parliament by asking for the ratification of a cession of territory. Egypt hopes to obtain a *quid pro quo* in the form of a tract of territory, which will place Sollum farther away from the western boundary; but, even so, the Government will be anxious to have consolidated its position in the country before entering upon the negotiations.

Roumania and Germany.

A third dispute occupying the Near Eastern stage at the present moment is between Roumania and Germany. During their occupation of Roumanian territory the Germans issued paper currency in the form of notes of the Banca Generale to the extent of over two thousand million lei. Roumania, being unable to obtain the redemption of these notes through Allied machinery, has called upon Germany to redeem them at their face value of eighty million pounds. The German Government offered two and a-half million pounds, the equivalent at the present rate of exchange, and when this suggestion was rejected, refused to consider the Roumanian demands any further. With a view to obtaining satisfaction, the Roumanian Government has declared its intention of enforcing certain economic penalties on German goods entering Roumania and on German property in the country; but before any steps in this direction were taken, the German Press published reports of the expulsion of Germans from Roumania, and generally worked itself up into such a state of excitement, that "counter-reprisals" were instituted in Germany first. As the notes in question have actually been redeemed by the Roumanian Government, it should not prove difficult to effect a compromise. Possibly, when interested parties have exploited the differences between the two countries to the required extent, a settlement will be found by the two Governments.

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INDIA.

Marking Time.

We think the Prime Minister showed a just appreciation of the position, when he refused to find an early day for an Indian debate on the ground that there was no reason for upsetting the programme of financial business. At the moment, in fact, there is very little to be said about India in this country. There is no use talking over constitutional questions until the Muddiman Report has been published and digested, a process which may need a little time, while, apart from constitutional worries, India is, on the whole, doing very well. A further reason for abstaining from official discussions just now may perhaps be drawn from the proceedings of the Legislature at Delhi. The daily reports which reach us are, of course, much condensed, but there seems to be very little talk about wrecking things nowadays, and the permutations and combinations of the various groups suggest that some members at least are getting into closer touch with realities. The financial debates next month will afford a better opportunity of judging the sense and the temper of the Assembly: with them, and with the Muddiman Report, Parliament can have a useful discussion after Easter.

Wrecker or Statesman?

Perhaps the most striking feature in the recent proceedings of the Assembly has been the appearance of Pundit Moti Lal Nehru as a convinced supporter of the system under which the final appeal from Indian courts lies to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Ardent Indian nationalism yearns for a Supreme Court, but the Pundit, an ardent nationalist, but also one of the best lawyers in India, maintains that for the redress of injustice the Judicial Committee is the more effective institution. On that matter he is perfectly right, though, as we have said before, we wish it could be found possible for the Committee to hold sittings in India from time to time; but, however that may be, such arguments will not help to wreck the Constitution, and in point of fact, the Pundit's position is very different from what it seemed in the excitement of the last elections. He is amply endowed with the qualities of a parliamentarian, and we suspect he also possesses some, at least, of the higher gifts of statesmanship. If he should decide to pull his weight in the constitutional boat, he could have a splendid career for himself, and do far more for his country than will ever be accomplished on the lines to which his party is committed.

Ministers in Bengal.

The decision of the Bengal Council that it is desirable in theory to have Ministers appointed is an advance from the position taken up last year, but its practical value is still doubtful. Last year the Council wrecked the omnibus because it disliked the driver; it has now decided, in principle, that a driver is wanted, because the omnibus is a real convenience; but we have still to see, first, whether it can agree to a particular driver, and, secondly, whether any driver will care to take the job. The central fact is that there is far too much personality in Calcutta politics. Bengal has an evil reputation for jealousy in other parts of India, themselves not wholly free from the same failing, and there is still a good deal of life in the old tradition of starting to undermine the position of a Minister on the day his appointment is announced. The question now is whether active politicians have got far enough on to recognise the danger of that tradition in the circumstances of to-day. If they

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can now agree to sink personal jealousies in order to let Ministers get to work, Ministers who will stand or fall by their record in office, then the inconveniences of the last year will have served a most useful purpose as an object-lesson in the art of practical politics.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Votes for Women.

In fields other than that of politics a reaction against the feminism of the years before the War may have set in, but so firmly did the poor, deluded male during the War plant his steps on the slippery path called "Equality of the Sexes" that even his wiser promptings will not now serve to drag him from it. Even this Government has just promised that at the next General Election male and female voters shall be of the same age (that age is to be determined), though surely it knows that the suggested reform is the wish only of a minority of women. One supposes, however, that politicians, even more than journalists, are sensitive to the vocal few and absolutely oblivious of the indifferent majority. The practice is what is called keeping one's ear to the ground; and it is all part, of course, of the huge monstrosity yclept (as Milton and the cross-words say) "progress."

Wasn't it G. K. Chesterton who remarked that it isn't that women are not good enough for the vote, but that the vote is not good enough for women? After which wisdom there is nothing more to be said.

The Air Estimates.

Our Air programme was virtually decided upon last year, and the estimates which were published last week are but a register of that programme. Two million more pounds are to be spent; but most of this goes on the special Air Arm for the Navy. There are undoubted signs that the country is now wide awake to the importance of its air routes; some of the most brilliant men of our time, in fact, are assisting the Government in its decision in this matter. One has little anxiety now that, both from the point of view of home defence and of commercial aerial enterprise, our air policy will contain grounds for misgiving.

The English Calendar.

The House of Clergy last week discussed the most interesting question of whether or not saints should be created for our English calendar. Undoubtedly there is a feeling in this country that our calendar, which boasts no name since the seventeenth century, is hopelessly out of date, but equally without doubt it would be an extremely difficult matter to secure unanimity in the problem of who exactly the new saints should be.

But it is a welcome sign of the times that the gap is being increasingly felt—it has come about, of course, not through the absence of men worthy of the honour, but from the varying historical positions in which the Church has from time to time found itself—and this sentiment is by no means the monopoly of the High Church or of the severely ecclesiastical party.

One of the most interesting suggestions was that the creation, or, rather, the adoration, of certain saints might be made a matter of diocesan arrangement, in consideration of the intensity of any particular regional patriotism. For what is called "superstitious reverence" is much more prevalent than our moderns would suppose among men like the fishermen and sailors and husbandrymen of this country.

The University Hockey Match.

It was a perfect winter day for the University hockey match last week at Beckenham, and the crowd was more numerous and bright than I have ever seen it. Oxford, who won by three goals to two, were certainly, but not without anxiety, the better side; as a team they had more dash, and there was no one on the Cambridge side quite so good as Maturin, Summerhayes, and Singh. It was thrilling enough to watch, however, particularly in the second half, when Oxford twice had to draw level, and the enthusiasm was such as is rarely heard in what is probably the least elemental of the winter games.

Spring Blossoms.

Winter is not yet over, but there are already people who appear to imagine that spring is at hand. These blithe optimists are revelling in the lengthening of the days, in the increasing sunshine, in the bursting of the snowdrops and crocuses and almond-trees. And it is true that the sight and feeling of these things do make one gay indeed. Even in London you may get flowers that no longer have had to be purchased in the Channel Islands or in France; and in the parks, the pink petals would, but for the rapaciousness of the wood-pigeons, be abounding.

The Theatre.

It must be a long time since we had in London three such plays as "Hamlet," "St. Joan," and "The Duenna" (the last of which, a most delightful thing, has just been transferred from Hammersmith to Golders Green) running at the same time. The fact can make us forget the existence of our "Vortexes," our "Spring Cleanings," our "Silences," and the rest.

The production last week at the Haymarket of "Hamlet" by an American actor, Mr. John Barrymore, seems to have attracted all the intelligence of London. A most impressive cast has been collected, and most accounts, though differing in details of criticism, agree in regarding this latest attempt to bring Shakespeare to the West End as worthily made. Naturally—for only at the Old Vic. is Shakespeare given in his entirety—cuts have been made, and it is chiefly over these that wranglings have been indulged.

Mr. Barrymore is playing only for six weeks, so that the chance of London to create a reputation for discrimination is a great one. One imagines

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that the Haymarket will be filled at each performance.

Alter Ego.

AN ARMENIAN VIOLINIST.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton and the Rev. Harold Buxton were At Home at the Sesame Club, London, on February 20, to enable a large number of people interested in the Near East to hear a young Armenian violinist, M. Gudenian. As the result of extended tours through Asia Minor and the Balkans, M. Gudenian has collected many melodies peculiar to that part of the world, and has woven them into violin fantasies of his own. Among the themes that he played on this occasion were a cradle song, the passing of a caravan with its camel bells as symbolical of man's passage along the track of life, and a shepherd's soliloquy, in which, after regretting his estrangement from the pleasures of love, he ends with a burst of mocking laughter at his own folly. M. Gudenian is an accomplished musician, and made his violin speak in a way that must have carried many of his hearers back to scenes very different and distant from the setting of a London clubroom.

ETCHINGS AND THE EAST.

In the fascinating exhibition of original etchings which is being held this month in the Galleries of the Fine Art Society, New Bond Street, there is a remarkable number of artists who have gone to the East for their subject. Unfortunately, there is space here but to enumerate some of them. There is, first, John Winkler, who has some charming studies, done in traditional style, of Oriental quarters and alleys and shops. Again, there is James McBey, whose "First Sight of Jerusalem," a war picture, is one of the most impressive etchings in the exhibition. In Rembrandt's examples one can study Oriental heads—these, of course, are above comment. Charles W. Cain, whose drawings and etchings of Iraq have deservedly brought him prominence, has two studies of Baghdad—"The Latticed Window" and "The Promenade." E. J. Detmold's work can be mentioned here because there is a fantastic hint of the East in it. One did not previously know that Frank Brangwyn had visited Yugoslavia, but here is a delightful sketch of the old bridge at Mostar. Finally, Beaupère's "Flight into Egypt" and Lumsden's "Mela Crowd, Benares" are to be noted by students of the Orient.

It is a very pleasing show altogether, in which Eileen Soper smiles on Zorn, and the liquid peace of Norman Wilkinson finds reflection in Durer. But, of course, the major portion of the exhibits are by living artists.

"SUMURUN."

The story of "Sumurun," which Friedrich Freksa made from "The Arabian Nights," for which Victor Hollander set music, and which, as will be remembered, Reinhardt brought to London before the War, is with us again, at the Coliseum. How the times have changed! Before the War, what was really known of sheikhs and dancing girls and eunuchs and bazaars? Now, thanks to the Russian Ballet and, still more, to our Dells and Hulls and Hichens, everyone is quite at his (or rather her) ease in tales of Oriental splendour and cruelty and unnaturalness.

But, to tell the truth, it is not possible to take this wordless play in seven scenes very seriously. Everything in it, music, décor, miming, dancing, has been far, far better done by English and Russian artists: one cannot forget "Hassan," or "Prince Igor," or "The Rite of Spring," you know.

Concerning the artists in this production, who for the most part appear to be German or Austrian, one notices with surprise that most praise has been lavished on Sumurun herself (Maria Solveg), on Nur-ed-Din (Walter Rilla), and on the Hunchback (Ernst Matray); but their performances do not compare for freshness and continuity (and, incidentally, the whole show is lacking in movement) with that of Sumurun's maid, Katta Sterna.

It seems a fair point of criticism that the production has not been sufficiently localised, that the producer has not sufficiently determined whether he is in Persia or Iraq or Syria. At times he is (the composer is always) decidedly in the West.

But it was certainly, as one is taught daily to say, "well received." The public which takes avidly to those fantasies of desert love, which Mr. Knox (one thinks) has mortally called "as dull as Hell," is certainly loyal to its fancies.

And there are other, and excellent, things in the Coliseum programme.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

The new Yugoslav Parliament will be opened by King Alexander on March 7.

Lewa (Major-General) C. W. Spinks Pasha has been re-engaged by the Egyptian Government on a two-years' contract as Inspector-General, Troops in Egypt.

As a result of the savings contemplated the Greek Minister of Finance estimates that the receipts in 1925-26 will exceed the expenditure by 500,000,000 drachmas.

It is announced that the 1st Battalion The Buffs, which has been absent on temporary duty in Egypt since December, will return to its station at Gibraltar about April 1.

M. Tudor Strachimiroff, a Communist deputy, was murdered in Sofia on February 17. It is supposed that this is an act of revenge for the assassination of M. Mileff.

Major W. E. Borret, with an amateur wireless station at Halifax, Nova Scotia, has succeeded in getting two-way communication with an amateur wireless station in Mosul, Iraq.

Mr. Francis Geisler Newton, of Mountfield, Upper Maze Hill, St. Leonards, Director of the Excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society, who died of sleepy sickness on December 25, 1924, aged 46, left estate valued for probate at £1,196 gross, with net personalty £900. He died intestate.

M. Nicolas Misu, of the Royal Palace, Bucharest, Roumania, Minister of the Household to the King of Roumania, Roumanian Minister to London 1912-1919, and afterwards Roumanian Foreign Minister and Minister of Crown Lands, who died on August 31, intestate, father of the lawn tennis player of the same name, left estate in England valued for probate at £133.

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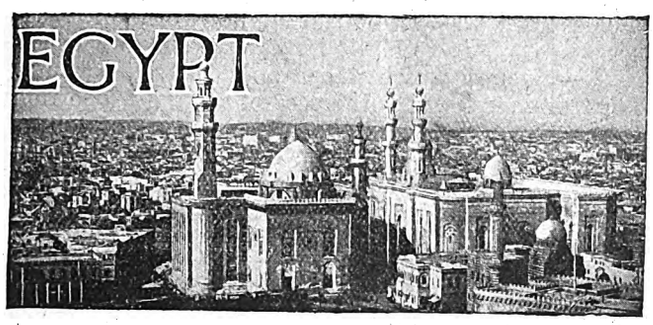
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, February 14.

The Stack Outrage.

The dramatic arrest a fortnight ago of two students trying to escape to the Tripoli frontier has had sensational consequences, which will have far-reaching effect on the results of the investigation that has been proceeding since the outrage on the Sirdar. The medical legal authorities have established that one of the revolvers found on these students was used in the outrage, and that the dum-dum bullets they possessed are identical with those used on that occasion, particularly with the one extracted from the late Sirdar. Major Campbell, Sir Lee Stack's Aide-de-Camp, next identified one of the students as having been among those who fired on the car, and now Abdel Fattah Enayat, the student in question, has made a confession which serves to complete the chain of evidence in this respect. I understand that his confession implicates his brother, who was arrested with him on the train, and several others, and that it is highly probable that, as the result of the information now in their possession, the authorities will be able to trace the criminal organisation that has been responsible for the outrages of the past two or three years, much further back than was at first thought possible.

There seems indeed little doubt that, although the post-War outrages had their ostensible cause in the unsettled political situation, the direct inspiration has come from a group who started their activities some considerable time before the War. And if, as is hoped, the further investigation leads to the rounding-up and punishment of the band of miscreants—it is not a very large one—who, after sowing the seed of political crime in Egypt, have persistently fostered its propagation, the country will be relieved of a cancer that threatened its national life at its very root.

Even so far as it has now gone the authorities responsible for the present investigation, who include Taha Noor Bey, Procureur-General Mr. Keown-Boyd, Director-General of the European Section of the Ministry of the Interior; Mr. G. H. Hughes, Chief Inspector of the Native Appeal Court Parquet; Russel Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police; and Ingram Bey, Sub-Commandant of the Cairo City Police, deserve the warmest congratulations for the courageous and steady manner in which, in spite of the serious initial obstacles, they have persisted along the lines of investigation they had originally traced.

Egypt's Diplomatic Service.

Various decisions entailing diplomatic moves and appointments have been taken by the Egyptian Government. The most important are the creation of Legations at Berlin, Constantinople, Athens, and Prague. Seifulla Yusri Pasha, Minister at Washington, is being transferred to Berlin, and will be succeeded by Mahmud Samy Pasha. The latter is a somewhat surprising appointment, for it was understood that he was not exactly *persona grata* with the present Government. Nor, in spite of his anti-British sentiments, was he popular either with the Wafdist Cabinet, who dismissed him from the Under-Secretaryship for Communications. The explanation of the loss of his post was undoubtedly that, even for the Zaghloulists, he pushed his Anglophobe activities too far—he was, in fact, entirely responsible for the serious state of affairs that arose in the Railways, where he deliberately undermined the authority of and obstructed the British officials. The decision of the present Cabinet to give him employment is no doubt due to a desire to placate his mother-in-law, Madame Hoda Shaarawi, who is one of the leading Egyptian feminists, and exercises a certain amount of political influence; but, as an Egyptian wag truly remarked when he heard of the appointment: "The Government has taken care to send him to the post farthest away from Egypt."

To Prague Mahmud Sabit Bey, until recently First Secretary in London, has been appointed. It has not yet, however, been decided who shall succeed him there, for Ahmed Hassanein Bey, who was to have been transferred from Washington to London, has now been appointed Second Chamberlain to King Fuad! The latter appointment represents well-deserved promotion, but there is general agreement that his right place is London, where his personality and connections would have enabled him to render at the present critical juncture far greater services to his country than he could possibly do in the Royal household.

Abdel Hamid Pasha.

The sudden death of Abdel Hamid Mustapha Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, cast a gloom over the community, European as well as Egyptian. Abdel Hamid Pasha, who was only forty-three years of age, had had a brilliant career. Judge of the Native Court of Appeal at a somewhat early age, he was one of the quartette of young Egyptians who were appointed to Under-Secretaryships on the declaration of independence in 1922, when he went to the Ministry of Finance in that capacity. There he quickly made his mark, but

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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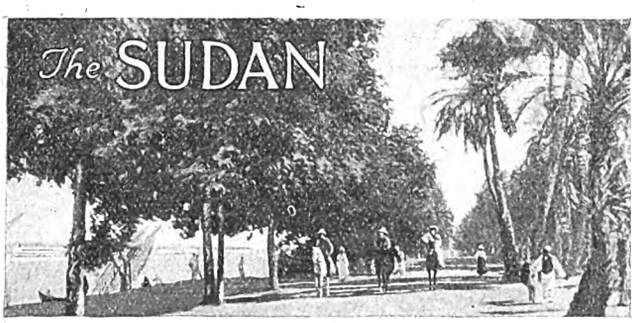
overworked to such an extent that illness overtook him, and when he recovered he was transferred as Royal Counsellor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the work was relatively lighter. Only recently he was promoted to the post of Under-Secretary that had meanwhile become vacant, but his first illness had clearly undermined his health, and the manner in which he taxed his constitution while at the Ministry of Finance was no doubt responsible for his sudden and premature demise.

Abdel Hamid Pasha was a man of peculiar charm and marked ability, which would have carried him far. He enjoyed the respect and esteem of his fellow-countrymen, regardless of party, as was indicated by the fact that, although it was known that he did not see eye to eye with the Wafd, Zaghloul Pasha, when he came to power, did not retire him, as he did to so many others, none the less capable, who did not embrace his doctrines. His death is a loss to Egypt, which, at the present juncture particularly, can ill-spare men of the type of Abdel Hamid Pasha Mustapha; and in the wide-spread regret that has been expressed have joined the members of the Diplomatic Corps, who, in the short time that he had been at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had been able to appreciate his personality and his capacity.



Khartoum, February 7.

Presentation to Khartoum Police.

On Wednesday morning last, the 4th inst., Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, officiated at one of the most pleasant ceremonies since his arrival in this country early in January. This ceremony consisted of the presentation by him of three medals and a general testimonial to the Khartoum Police.

It was an event of considerable importance. In addition to the fact that it was the first time on record this or any other Sudanese provincial police had received official recognition for loyalty and gallantry, the three medals won by individual members of the force were for such meritorious acts as must portray to all the excellent calibre and keenness of the police personnel.

All of us who were in Khartoum during the latter part of 1924 still retain vivid memories of those most trying incidents which began in June with pro-Egyptian (anti-Government) demonstrations and culminated with the mutiny of the 11th Battalion in November. During all this period the Khartoum Police were called upon to carry out every conceivable kind of additional duties. These were all performed so well that the general public were entirely ignorant of this activity, and, therefore, the immense value of this police work was passed unnoticed and unappreciated.

The force was recompensed, however, on Wednesday when it received its reward for the excellent manner in which it had applied itself to duty. This ceremony was witnessed by a large proportion of the European population of the city, as well as by a vast concord of native inhabitants, who had to be controlled by a special section of Ghaffirs.

The ceremony took place outside the Provincial Headquarters at 10 a.m. Sir Geoffrey first inspected the three sections of police, which were drawn up to represent three sides of an oblong. These sections comprised the Mounted Police, the Foot Police, and the Camel Police. After being introduced to the British Superintendent and his two assistants, Sir Geoffrey faced the force and delivered the following address, which was repeated in Arabic :—

It gives me great pleasure to come here to-day in order to present to you testimonials to your loyalty and gallantry.

I myself was not present during the disturbed periods when your efficiency and courage were so severely tested. But the Acting Governor-General and Huddleston Pasha have spoken to me in the highest terms of your conduct and steadiness in trying circumstances.

The medals for gallantry which I am about to present to three of you should be regarded not alone as a personal recognition by His Most Gracious Majesty the King of England of conspicuous acts of gallantry performed by the recipients. They should also be regarded as an exceptional mark of His Majesty's appreciation of the fine work performed by the whole of the Khartoum Province Police.

I trust that the testimonial I am now about to present to you will be regarded by all ranks as a record of duty bravely carried out. I hope also that it will be an incentive to new recruits to your ranks to maintain the high standard of efficiency which now exists.

The Awards.

On the conclusion of this address the Governor-General presented the three medals awarded for deeds of gallantry. The Acting Military Secretary read aloud the particulars of their deeds, and as each was told the Governor-General stepped forward and pinned the decoration to the breast of the recipient. The names of these policemen and the account of their gallantry is given below :—

Sol Ibrahim Negib.—Owing to the necessary scattering of the police force he was often called upon to act alone without the instructions of a British superior. He showed presence of mind, a power of quick decision, and ability to act on his own initiative. Though suffering from a bad attack of fever he refused to fall out. His gallantry and coolness were praiseworthy in the extreme. His example in the face of the enemy inspired every member of the police force, and their exemplary behaviour was very largely due to the example set them by this warrant officer.

Shawish Jak Taha.—When the mutiny first started he proceeded through the enemy in plain clothes. He moved among them endeavouring to discover their intentions. He

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was shot at, but escaped, and returned to headquarters with valuable information.

At night he was in charge of a post in one of the streets. Two of the mutineers tried to cross the street, and on being fired at attempted to take refuge behind a heap of stones on the opposite side of the street. This Shawish dashed across the road under the full glare of a 500 watt lamp to dislodge the enemy. When he got to the stones the mutineers had dispersed.

Throughout the action he set a most gallant example to the men under him, and during the remainder of the day was always foremost to round up isolated men of the enemy.

Nafar Mohammed Abdulla Mohammed.—On Friday, November 28, this Nafar, a newly joined recruit, was one of a party engaged in rounding up seven of the mutineers who were loose in the town. One of these had entered a private courtyard surrounded by houses and was occupying a small outhouse to which there was only one small opening. This Nafar at once climbed a wall in full view of the mutineers. He made his way along same, a distance of 15 yards, and climbed on to the roof of the outhouse and endeavoured to make a hole in it. All this time he was being fired at by the mutineer. The outhouse was only four feet square. He succeeded in opening the roof and fired on the mutineer, who ran out of the outhouse and surrendered. The gallantry of this policeman undoubtedly saved many casualties, and had a most reassuring effect on the population of a very crowded quarter of the town.

The Governor-General concluded this pleasant task by presenting the testimonial to the Khartoum Police. This took the shape of a beautifully designed address on goat skin and parchment paper. Around the border were drawn the various police units and other appropriate matter touching the personnel of the police.

Sir Geoffrey, in presenting this, read a translation of the Arabic inscription, which ran :—

To the Police of Khartoum Province.

During the months of June, July, August, and September of 1924 you were called upon to cope with a series of demonstrations against the Sudan Government organised by societies of disaffected persons, and, finally, in November of the same year, you were called upon to co-operate with the military in putting down a mutiny. Throughout all these days of trouble, in spite of efforts to undermine your loyalty, your loyalty remained unshaken.

You have shown energy and zeal and gallantry in protecting the inhabitants of Khartoum Province, and your conduct has been recognised by His Majesty King George.

This memorial, which will be hung in your barrack room, will commemorate for all time our thanks to every one of you.

An Unrehearsed Incident.

With the expression of thanks to the Governor-General by the Superintendent, Mr. Kinmonth, the ceremony should have ended, but at the last moment a policeman stepped from the ranks, and, after smartly saluting the Governor-General, delivered a speech of some length. It would be unnecessary to give this in detail in these columns, but one would like to say that it was entirely a spontaneous effort, and was the production of the police rank and file. It was, indeed, a remarkable example of the whole-hearted support of the Sudanese towards the British Administration. Following this speech, the police warrant officer called for three cheers for His Majesty King George of England.

The march past, which was the closing item of the ceremony, was most ably done.

GREECE.

Athens, February 16.

The Question of the Patriarchate.

The indifference of the Powers in the Patriarchal outrage, an indifference faithfully reflected here by their diplomatic representatives, does not appear to have caused much surprise. In the opinion of the Greeks, however, the Turks, by their expulsion of the Œcumenical Patriarch, not only violated their Treaty obligations, but their treatment of Constantine VI. constitutes an affront to all the orthodox Balkan States and to the Christian world in general. The Turks, rightly or wrongly, believe that the Powers have ceased to take any interest in the Christian minorities in Turkey. They conceived this belief after the signature of the inhuman convention for the Exchange of Populations, a convention all in favour of the Turks when one considers the disproportion existing between the property owned by Greeks in Turkey and that owned by Turks in Greece. The Turks are, it seems, determined to rid themselves of all the Greek Ottomans (Rayahs) in Turkey; and it is thought here that when all the *non-établis* are gone, they will render life so unbearable to the *établis* that in course of time all the non-Turks will emigrate.

It is argued in Athens by those familiar with Turkish methods that one can see at a glance that the expulsion of Mgr. Constantine is the first step towards the abolition of the Œcumenical Patriarchate, which the Turks rightly consider will have no *raison d'être* when no Ottoman Greeks are left in Turkey. The reasons for which the Patriarchate was vested with extensive powers by Mahomed the Conqueror will no longer exist.

The Turkish View.

The reply of the Angora Government to the Greek protest is couched in almost friendly terms, but it nevertheless misrepresents to a degree the facts of the question at issue. The reply states that the Turkish Government will abide by the engagements taken by Ismet Pasha at Lausanne for the maintenance at Constantinople of the Patriarchate as an ecclesiastical institution. The first move of the Angora Government was, however, to order the expulsion of the head of that institution in violation of the Lausanne Treaty. The Greek Government will now endeavour to place matters in their true light, and hopes to that end to secure the support of the other signatories of the Lausanne Treaty.

Development of Macedonia.

A Parliamentary Commission which recently visited Macedonia in order to examine the refugee

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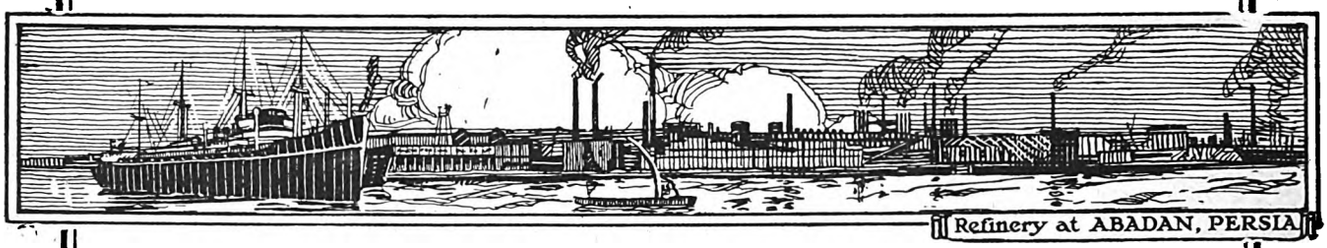

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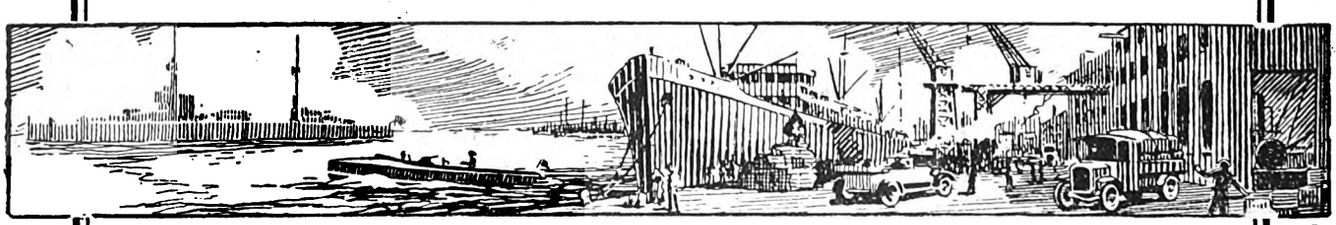

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situation there is drawing up a report, which it will submit to the Government and to the National Assembly. It is understood that the impressions gathered by the Commission are, on the whole, quite satisfactory. Thanks to the work of the refugees, agriculture has made immense progress, and wheat and tobacco are cultivated on a large scale throughout Macedonia. In spite of the inevitable incompleteness of the refugee services, excellent results have been obtained from an agricultural point of view, and if weather conditions are favourable, this year's crops are expected to be most abundant.

Graeco-Yugoslav Treaty.

M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, who has been summoned to Athens to act as chief Greek delegate in the negotiations for a new Græco-Yugoslav Treaty, has already had some preliminary conversations with M. Gavrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister in Athens. A certain section of the Athens Press suggested the adjournment of negotiations for a new Treaty until the internal situation in Yugoslavia becomes clearer than it is to-day. But, in dealing with this subject, M. Michalakopoulos remarked that there is no reason for adjourning the negotiations, inasmuch as Yugoslavia has a legally constituted Government recognised by all other States.

Athens Police.

Athens has assumed a quite new aspect since the Metropolitan Police entered upon its duties. The *laisser aller* of the former police no longer exists, and the public respects the police regulations. The streets are infinitely cleaner, and the manner in which wheeled traffic has been regulated is an eloquent proof of the ability of Sir Frederick Halliday's policemen.

A rather amusing episode occurred the other day when a policeman arrested two men who jumped on to a tramcar in motion. The culprits were taken to the police-court, where they gave their names. The one was Admiral Cacoulides, a member of the National Assembly, and the other General Scarlatos. The Admiral was fined 13.60 drs. (10d.) and the General 16.60 drs. (1s.). Admiral Cacoulides did not prosecute his rights to Parliamentary immunity.

A Parliamentary Scene.

What to all appearances was an altogether unwarranted attack on M. Spirides, Minister of National Economy, in the National Assembly on Saturday evening, gave rise to scenes about which the less said the better. The Opposition's attack on M. Spirides was nothing but a new effort of the Papanastassiou party to overthrow the Government. M. Spirides enjoys general esteem, and is well known in British commercial circles (he was Minister of National Economy when an exhibition of British Industries was held at Athens in 1919). Saturday's debate ended in a vote of confidence, which resulted in a majority for the Government, in spite of the Opposition's efforts to prevent a quorum by leaving the House. In official circles it was said to-day that the Government does not attach particular importance to Saturday's incidents in the Assembly, inasmuch as it has every reason to believe it will continue to enjoy the confidence of the parties which have hitherto supported it. There is a possibility, however, of the Cabinet's being reconstructed under M. Michalakopoulos.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, February 17.

The Murder of M. Mileff.

Yet another murder, and, up to the present, no news as to who the murderers are. On Friday evening, February 13, M. Nicolas Mileff, editor of the newspaper *Slovo*, was returning to his home along the Boulevard Dondoukoff when he was shot at by a group of men. The first shot missed, and Mileff started to run; but the assassins followed up and shot him stone dead.

This assassination has caused great indignation amongst Governmental, Macedonian, and journalistic circles. Mileff was forty-three years old, and had recently been appointed Minister to Washington, where he was due to proceed at the end of this month. Deputy, President of the Journalists' Association, Professor of History, and an ardent Macedonian, Mileff was one of the "pillars" of M. Zankoff's Government. Before the *coup d'état* in June, 1923, he had been marked out for the post of Foreign Minister, but, being a Macedonian, it was feared that his appointment might displease Yugoslavia; so Mileff occupied himself with journalism, in which he excelled.

No definite proofs are as yet to hand regarding the motives which dictated his assassination, but public opinion is unanimous in attributing it to the Communists and extreme Agrarians, with the possible connivance of the Federalist Macedonians. As Mileff was a strong supporter of the Autonomist section amongst the Macedonians, this last supposition must not be ruled out. In any case, the Government are once more determined to keep down all Communist activities. Legislation will, therefore, be introduced whereby the Communist Deputies will be disqualified from holding their seats in the Sobranye. In addition, no Communist newspapers will be allowed to appear.

The Cult of Political Crime.

Although the Balkans have always been more or less associated with political violence, the series of political assassinations which have taken place in Bulgaria during the last few years must be something in the nature of a record. The value of life seems, indeed, to be growing less and less, and what is more serious is that the people struck down are often amongst the most able and intelligent that the country possesses. Then, again, one murder only seems to provoke another, and the vendetta, so to speak, which is going on between Autonomist Macedonians and Federalists, Government and Communists, shows no signs of cessation. Passions become inflamed so easily, and assassins are apparently able to be hired at not too great a cost. No words are strong enough to condemn this

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state of affairs, which, if it continues, cannot but do irreparable harm to the country at large.

Congress of the Democratic Entente.

This Congress, which does not comprise the rank and file of the party, but only the leaders, is at present sitting. It is a well-known fact that a certain section of the Entente is desirous of seeing a change in the Government. But the actual Ministers seem to be fairly unanimous in wishing to remain on. Nevertheless, the name of Liaptcheff continues to be on every lip, and it is practically certain that if M. Zankoff does decide to retire, M. Liaptcheff will be his successor. On the other hand, it is said that certain of the military supporters of the present Government desire no change, and that M. Thodoroff, Minister of Finance, is at the head of this group, and possesses a good deal of influence.

Sofia's Water Supply.

In the last two years the Sofia Municipality has been studying ways and means whereby the capital would receive a bigger supply of water. An American company has made at least one tangible offer, and it is possible that this may be accepted, as a continued drought during the winter months has served to convince the municipality that it is essential to do something.

Foreign Capital.

Although it is proverbial that projects of law in Bulgaria are very often quashed before they reach Parliament, it is, nevertheless, unpleasant to have to record that legislation which will undoubtedly tend towards hindering the entry and free development of foreign capital is being contemplated. The project in question concerns insurance companies, and aims at penalising foreign companies at the expense of local. In addition, there is talk of 75 per cent. of the directorate and the employees of Bulgarian companies having to be Bulgarians. In her present position Bulgaria cannot afford to indulge in any legislation, however slight it may be, which will prejudice the investment of foreign capital.

THE DOME OF THE ROCK.

Lecturing on February 18 at the London School of Oriental Studies, Mr. Ernest Richmond said that the celebrated building at Jerusalem known as the Dome of the Rock had experienced the wear and tear of thirteen centuries, had suffered from fire, from neglect, and from the not always well-instructed efforts of repairers. Yet in plan and general arrangement, as well as in much of its decoration, it was still the original building of Abdul Malik, dating from the last quarter of the seventh century. It was the earliest existing monument of Moslem architecture, and one of the most interesting and impressive. Its builders had sought to surpass the magnificence of neighbouring Christian buildings, and by adding architectural splendour to religious associations to attract as many Moslem pilgrims as possible to Jerusalem. For such a purpose, the first care of the Caliph would be to obtain the most skilful architects and craftsmen that could be found, but of these we knew little more than the names of the two men chosen to superintend the work. These were Riza ibn Hazab, an Arab, who probably had charge of the finances of the construction, and Yazid ibn Saltam, a native of Jerusalem, in whose hands was most probably the technical direction. The problem before the builders had been to provide a building that would enclose and cover the rock in a fitting manner, and would allow within the enclosing wall ample space for the circulation of pilgrims round the rock. To achieve this purpose they had raised a dome over the rock, placing it on a substructure circular in plan, and of a diameter not greater than was necessary to encompass the rock. Around this substructure were the ambulatories, formed by an outer wall and an inner arcade, both octagonal in plan. The original dome had been thrown down in 1016, the present one dating from about three years after that date. It was a double dome, the inner and outer ones being structurally independent. The cushion of air between the two kept the inner dome at an even temperature. Changes of temperature would have caused expansion and contraction, as well as the condensation of moisture from the air within the building on the inner surface of the dome, and the result would have been disastrous to the internal decoration.

Of the interior of the building, Mr. Richmond said that the decoration of mosaic, of painting, and of marble, lit by windows filled with coloured glass, produced an astonishingly rich and varied effect. No one could enter without being impressed by an indescribable quality of majesty, of dignity, and of peace. Nor was the impression of solemnity and quiet lessened by the coloured mosaics with their glittering gold ground, the coloured marbles, the painted ceilings, and the brilliant glass of the windows through which the light trickled so pleasantly. This colour and glitter seemed only to add splendour to gravity. But externally the building was not so impressive. The original method of decoration had been by mosaic externally as well as internally: the present external decoration by tiles dated probably from the fifteenth century. Defects were remedied whenever new tiles to replace those that had fallen could be brought into Jerusalem or manufactured there, or whenever tiles left in store from previous repairs happened to be available; and in the result all unity of design was destroyed. There were upon the walls tiles of every century from the fifteenth to the twentieth.

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The funeral of M. Mileff, who was assassinated last Friday week, was celebrated with impressive ceremony in the Cathedral at Sofia on February 17.

M. Herriot last Thursday conferred with Jevad Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, who stated that Turkey had decided not to carry out any more expulsions.

A number of students have been arrested at Bucharest and at Jassy for causing a disturbance at the Universities in an effort to prevent the classes from being held.

The Egyptian Government has obtained the agreement of the Turkish Government to the appointment of Mehmed Pasha as Egyptian Diplomatic representative at Angora.

Bishop Gore arrived in Jerusalem last Friday. He is staying over Easter as the guest of the Anglican Bishop, the High Commissioner, and the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church.

Several hundred Greeks and Yugoslavs who had been unable to find employment in Australia, many of them being destitute and unable to speak English, embarked on the Messageries Maritimes steamer Cephée at Melbourne last Friday for their native lands.

By order of the Reparation Commission, 12,508 shares in various Near Eastern companies, formerly the property of German subjects, were, according to the *Daily Telegraph* Paris correspondent, offered for sale by auction at the Hotel Astoria, Paris, on February 18. The bidders were almost entirely representative of three French banks.

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A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.—III.

By ARTHUR CARR.

(*Continued from page* 201.)

Teheran.

In Teheran I remained fourteen days for business reasons. Of all the Eastern cities I have visited I like Teheran the least. Certainly great improvements are being made, or, rather, shall I say, it is being more Europeanised. The "Tup Maidan" is being made into a miniature park, with gardens, lake, and gravelled walks. I much preferred the ancient square, with its old guns. Then the Bagh-i-Shah almost makes one weep, with its miniature racecourse and its childish imitation of the Place de l'Etoile in Paris. A walk down the "Lala Zar" is most depressing, with its tawdry rows of shops. One almost smiles to think that "Lala Zar" means the "Place of Tulips." The water holes running down the side of the street are positively dangerous, especially after dark. One feels here that the East has lost much in its contact with the West. As in all capital cities, one hears more politics, and the present Premier seems to be inspiring confidence both in the political and merchant classes. Certainly the tone in general is one of confidence in the present Government. Roads are being constructed, trade is improving, and, taken altogether, optimism prevails. There is only one thing lacking, and it is a chronic disease in Persia—money. However, a Persian always hopes for the best and accepts the worst with his soul-lulling "Inshallah." The bazaars of Teheran are spacious and well built. Here, as everywhere in the Orient, are to be found the true life of the place and the centre of trade. The environs of Teheran are very charming, with wide avenues and good roads. The sunset on the hills is beautiful, whilst the mighty Demavand towers 20,000 ft. into the clouds, capped with everlasting snow.

Teheran to Tabriz.

I left Teheran *en route* for Tabriz on Saturday, October 11, in a Steyr car belonging to my friend Mr. Charles Stevens, of Tabriz, returning as far as Kasvin over the road I had already come. This road is fairly good, as far as roads go in Persia. About one hour past Kasvin we left the Hamadan road, striking to the right. From now on we simply travelled along the caravan track, with many bumps and shakings. We were travelling through the rich, well-watered, and well-cultivated province of Khamseh, and as the watercourses very often cut right across the track we were travelling on, the motor was all the time going through deep ruts filled with water, which necessitated constant care at the wheel. We reached Zendjan at 6 p.m., and as there is not even an apology for an hotel anywhere between Teheran and Tabriz, we slept in a room at the Indo-European Telegraph Co.

A Wild Ride.

We left Zendjan at 4 a.m. next morning, and during the day I was destined to experience the most thrilling motor ride I have ever had in my life. If yesterday we were travelling over camel-tracks, watercourses, and ruts, this day beggars all description. We forded rivers with water up to the middle of the radiator, bumping over stones in the river beds which threatened every moment to smash the springs to atoms. Out of the river beds we climbed up embankments which seemed impossible. This Steyr 25 h.p. car was indeed a marvel, and as I told my friend Stevens at the wheel, I am sure that gallant car could do anything but climb telegraph poles. No need of a cinematograph to have thrills; every few minutes one hung on the face of a rising embankment, or looked into the water which we were plunging through, fearing every minute one would be pitched into eternity. The breaking of a spring or an axle in any of these circumstances would have meant certain death. It was a wild, mad ride, and certainly that road was never meant for motor traffic. However, I must continue my story. We reached the mountain called "Kuflan Kuh" at 12 a.m. The climb from Jemalabad was made fairly easy. Now came the descent to Mianeh. At the summit I got out, because from there ropes had to be attached on account of the steep gradient; with twenty to thirty men hanging on behind, and with only my friend Stevens at the wheel, the car slowly descended. It almost made one afraid as it skidded or slid down, sometimes with all four wheels locked. It did not run down, it simply lurched down, and was held to the road by the men hanging on behind. I told my friend that I would not take a car down that hill at any price. However, in these countries these things must be, and are, done. Finally we reached Mianeh at 4.30, the descent having taken nearly three hours. We started again next day threshing through streams and ravines, and finally down the dangerous Chibley Pass. We reached Tabriz at 4 p.m., Saturday, October 13.

MR. HILD F. STEVENS.

Tabriz.

I remained in Tabriz fourteen days on business. Tabriz, capital of Azerbaijan, lies forty miles east of Lake Urmia, and is the chief trade centre of North Persia, doing also a large transit trade, lying as it does at the end of the caravan route from Trebizond, on the Black Sea.

Here I was the guest of the family Stevens, the head of which is Mr. Hild F. Stevens, now over seventy years of age, fifty years of which have been passed in Tabriz. He went out, I understand, as the representative of a British textile firm, was at one time British Consul, and has from time to time received many tokens of appreciation from the British authorities. Mr. Stevens is known among the natives as "Sahib Buzurg," or the "Big Sahib," and he is big in every way, standing over 6 ft. high and broad in proportion. He has a heart of gold, and his life in this the most fanatical

(*Continued on page* 230.)

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

President: Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

Founded in 1911 to study all questions of common interest to Great Britain and Persia.

Subscription £1 per annum. Further particulars may be obtained of the Honorary Secretary, 74, Grosvenor St., W.1.

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Near East Bookshelf.

INDIAN HUMOUR.

"THE WIT AND WISDOM OF INDIA." By Pandit Shyáma Shankar, M.A. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. 6d.)

A sense of humour arises from a keen perception of the ludicrous side of things. It sweetens life by emphasising the fact that most clouds have a silver lining; and the majority who do not possess it are much to be pitied. The quality of humour varies from age to age. Jokes which excited Homeric laughter in the guests at Trimalcion's Feast, as related by Petronius Arbiter, are quite incomprehensible by moderns, and Cowper's "John Gilpin," which set all England roaring with delight 140 years ago, would probably be "returned with thanks" were it offered to *Punch* in the present year of grace.

Europeans are apt to deny a sense of humour to their Indian fellow-subjects, but this prejudice is due to the etiquette which forbids the latter to laugh in a superior's presence. That they are endowed with this precious gift is proved by a collection of funny stories which have recently been published on behalf of Pandit Shyáma Shankar. Many of them are inspired by the hostility which has always raged between townsmen and country folk. It is instanced by the following tale:—

One night there was a festival in the village of Baglolegáon. The villagers gathered together at the landlord's house to make merry at a drinking-bout. They were far gone in liquor, when a man broke in with the news that he had found a plate of living gold shining in the river! The landlord was at once seized with the desire of possessing it. So he, at the head of all his party, proceeded to the spot where the great discoverer led them. "Look!" said the man, pointing to the moonbeams reflected by the river. "Look, did I tell you a lie? Is it not gold?" "Certainly, certainly," cried all; and the landlord ordered the village fishermen to cast a net in order to fish the treasure out. So they set to work and caught many fish, but no gold plate. It kept shifting its place with the moon's decline, and finally disappeared when the moon set. But the people of Baglolegáon thought that the golden dish had sunk deep into the water, and their progeny still casts net and dives down in the river-bed in the hope of finding the precious lump of gold.

It is not generally known that our word "pagan," denoting heathen beyond the Christian pale, is derived from the Latin *pagani*, which was contemptuously applied to villagers living outside the walls of Rome. The following anecdote shows that "the fierce light which beats upon a throne" did not exempt Indian Princes from the shafts of humour:—

There was once a King who did not smoke, and often took his courtiers to task for indulging in that bad habit. One day the King, accompanied by them, walked out into a field where tobacco was growing. At one end of it there stood a donkey silently gazing at the tobacco plants, but making no attempt to eat them. "Look here," said the King, "tobacco is such an evil thing that even donkeys will have nothing to do with it!" "Pardon, your Majesty," said the Court Jester Birbal, "it is only such stupid things as donkeys that do not enjoy tobacco. No brilliant idea ever strikes a donkey." The King was pleased with the humour, but not with the truth of the remark, for the cap fitted him rather well!

The *naiveté* and charm of Pandit Shyáma Shankar's little book are enhanced by characteristic pictures; and, to quote Mr. F. H. Skrine's Introduction:—

These stories have a flavour of their own, and may be placed between the fanciful fairy-tale and the fable which conceals a moral. Our young folks will enter a new world, radiant with quaint imaginings, while their parents will discover an underlying vein of philosophic thought and one proof the more that human nature does not vary greatly on the banks of the Ganges and the Thames.

THE CONTINUITY OF PERSIA.

"SURVIVALS OF SASANIAN AND MANICHÆAN ART IN PERSIAN PAINTING." By Sir Thomas W. Arnold, C.I.E., Litt.D. (Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d.)

One of the greatest difficulties which confront the historian of Persia is the presence of great gaps in her historical record. Each set of historians or annalists seems to start either from the beginning of the dynasty whose memory it wishes to perpetuate—often at the expense of the preceding dynasty—or it links up its history with the semi-mythological past as recorded in the Shahnama of Firdausi. Despite this lack of continuity in records, however, there exists a continuity in the life of Persia, and every conqueror of that empire from Alexander the Great onwards has been forced, ultimately, to bow before her spell. This continuity it is most difficult to demonstrate, and the student of Persian history is therefore placed under a great debt to Sir Thomas Arnold for choosing this subject for the Charlton Lecture in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Sir Thomas introduces the subject with a consideration of the adaptation of existing art by all religions when they succeed in imposing their acceptance on a people, indicating, however, that "Islam, unlike Christianity, has never taken pictorial art under its protection." With the Arab the human figure was not regarded as a suitable subject for artistic treatment, and his prejudices were ultimately reinforced by his religion. He then gives a short historical sketch of Persia, and observes:—

"It is therefore a noteworthy phenomenon in the history of art that, in spite of the Islamic condemnation of representations of the human figure, it is just such forms of artistic expression that emerge once again after a lapse of six centuries. What happened during that long interval we can only conjecture. There was probably some form of artistic activity, though little evidence of it has survived to us."

He then considers certain "characteristics of later Persian painting, the prototypes of which are to be found in Sasanian art, such as the figures of victory in the 'Taq-i-Bustan,'" which "occur again and again in Persian painting," with remarkable similarities either in facial feature, dress, or position.

Similarly he deals with hunting scenes, in which the later treatment of the rider and the animals clearly owes a debt to the more primitive art not only in general principle, but in detail.

In passing to the Manichæan contribution to Persian art the treatment is more summary, but Sir Thomas has produced sufficient evidence, in the form of coloured reproductions, to show the debt of Muslim art to the art of the despised religion in religious subjects. The forms and figures are clearly not of Byzantine origin, and there seems to be no alternative, since Professor Le Coq's discoveries, to the acceptance of the writer's contention that the forms were of Manichæan origin.

The lecture is beautifully illustrated, and the reproduction of several pictures of Biblical scenes belonging to this hitherto lost tradition should be of interest to a wider circle than Orientalists. As a specimen of artistic bookmaking it is perfect.

F. W. Buckler.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Origin of Man." By Carveth Read. (London: The Cambridge University Press. 5s. net.)

"Man and His Superstitions." By Carveth Read. (London: The Cambridge University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Deep Currents," by A. Fielding. (London: W. Collins, Sons, and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 26, 1925 (New Style).
February 13, 1925 (Old Style).
Shaaban 2, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar 2, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir George and the Hon. Lady Lloyd have returned to London from abroad.

Mrs. Austen Chamberlain will leave London early in March for the Greek Islands and Palestine.

Mr. Francis Fitzgerald, C.B.E., chairman of the Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt, has left London for Cairo.

Colonel Ion Antonescu, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on February 17 for Brussels.

Sir George Saltmarsh and Miss Saltmarsh left London last Friday in the P. and O. s.s. Narkunda for Bombay.

Mr. and Mrs. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid left England last week for Iraq and Palestine, and will be absent for seven weeks.

Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London last Friday from Paris.

Viscount and Viscountess Ullswater left London on February 18 for Egypt and Palestine, and will not return to England until April.

Earl Winterton, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for India, who had been confined to his London residence with a chill, has now recovered.

M. C. Laptew, the newly appointed Counsellor at the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on February 17 from Warsaw, where he has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

Lieut.-Colonel H. F. Jacob, C.S.I., gave an address to members of the London Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday on the "Resources and Commercial Possibilities of the Yemen."

The Right Rev. Charles Hope Gill, who last year resigned the bishopric of Travancore and Cochin, South India, is spending the winter at Tangier, and hopes to arrive in England in May.

The marriage will take place early in March from the house of Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears, at Allahabad, of Lieutenant Gerald Mears, M.C., R.A., with Miss Margaret Delicia Giffard.

The Afghan Chargé d'Affaires in London will give a reception on Wednesday, March 4, at the Afghan Legation, 42, Grosvenor Place, to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place quietly in Cairo in March, between Charles Anthony Williams, Egyptian Civil Service, Cairo, and Marjorie, elder daughter of the late Thomas Harrison Rymer and Mrs. Rymer, of Calder Abbey, Cumberland.

The King of Roumania has conferred the Order of the Crown of Roumania upon Mr. Roper Barrett, who was Chief Commoner last year, and was Chairman of the Special Committee of the Corporation which made the arrangements for the reception of the King and Queen of Roumania at the Guildhall during their visit to London.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed the following to be Assistant Divisional Engineers in the Posts and Telegraphs Department of the Government of India:—Lachlan Colvile Patrick MacAlpine Grant, Conrad Reginald Cooke, Bodh Raj Batra.

It is announced that the King has approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Henry Bentinck, C.M.G., as His Majesty's Minister in Abyssinia, in succession to Mr. C. F. W. Russell.

OBITUARY.

Major-General Euston Henry Sartorius, V.C., C.B., who won the supreme award for bravery in Afghanistan in 1879, died on Thursday, aged 81. General Sartorius was born at Cintra, the third son of the late Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Sartorius, G.C.B., and won the Victoria Cross while serving in the Afghan War with the old 59th Foot, now the 2nd Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment. In the Egyptian War of 1882 he served as D.A.A.G.

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy B. Bramley, O.B.E., formerly Director of Public Security in Palestine, died last Thursday, after a sudden and brief illness, at 24, Tregunter Street, South Kensington, in his 57th year. He was the eldest son of the late Colonel Howard Bramley, Indian Army, and was born in India. During the late War he held the post of Commandant at Basra on lines of communication, and received the Order of the British Empire for his services. In 1922 he came to this country in connection with the raising of the British Gendarmerie Force under Major-General H. H. Tudor, and was received in audience by the King. In the following year he retired. He was a valued and prominent member of various societies devoted to the study of the East.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1925.

TROUBLE IN BULGARIA.

There is something awry in the state of Bulgaria. When M. Mileff was assassinated in Sofia last week it seemed probable that he had fallen a victim to the vendetta now raging in the ranks of the Macedonians. His was one of the leading intellects in the party of the Macedonian Autonomists, and for this reason he might well be marked down by the Federalists to pay the penalty for the murder of Peter Chaüleff, who had championed the acceptance of Soviet support for Macedonian aims. Subsequent events, however, suggest that the death of M. Mileff may have been merely an episode in a campaign of terrorism which, it is believed in Bulgaria, has been planned by the Communists. The murder of a sentry outside the main military barracks in Sofia could have no political significance apart from the challenge it contained to all constituted authority; and it becomes invested with additional importance when a woman arrested in connection with the murder is reported to have committed suicide in prison. M. Rousseff, Minister of the Interior, has declared in the Sobranye that a group in the Agrarian-Communist Party is systematically pursuing by crimes of every kind a policy of extermination of the prominent persons in the present Administration, and the Government is asking for legislation to strengthen the legal penalties now in force. If it is known that sentence of death has been passed on several Ministers by the committee directing this Communist organisation, the Government's anxiety is comprehensible, and it cannot be blamed for the decision to have recourse once more to repressive measures. On this, however, has apparently been built a report of a "military plot" against the Government, in which the King is represented as playing a part. Such stories merely betray ignorance of the present situation in Bulgaria. M. Zankoff's Government was placed in power by the military organisation that carried out the *coup d'état* of June, 1923, and may be said to have always been identified with the Army. It is possible that changes in the composition of the Ministry may be considered advisable in order to strengthen the Administration; but anything in the nature of a plot could, strictly speaking, be associated only with Agrarian-Communist activities.

It is inevitable that recent occurrences should severely test the Government's position. Two schools of thought are likely to arise; those who demand more and more drastic measures, and those who deprecate a policy that must ultimately divide the country into two bitterly hostile camps of more or less equal strength. The murder of a Communist deputy so soon after the assassination of the Government's supporter has provoked a discussion on the merits or demerits of "reprisals"; but it would be imagined that no responsible person could conceive of a Government policy based on such methods, for it could lead nowhere. No one is likely to urge the Zankoff Government to attempt to come to terms with the Communists; but many of its supporters must be seriously exercised in mind at the prospect of carrying on the administration of the country in the face of the determined hostility of Macedonians, Agrarians, and Communists. The more resolved those supporters are to clip the wings of Communism, the more anxious they should be to eliminate any sense of permanent incompatibility of aims between the bourgeois parties and the bulk of the peasants, or indeed the Macedonians. As far as the latter are concerned, there is no need, and no justification, for embroiling Bulgaria in their quarrel with Yugoslavia. However much sympathy may be felt in the country with the Macedonian movement, it has been clearly shown that no gesture on the part of the Sofia Government can do the Macedonians any good or fail to prejudice Bulgaria. In regard to the peasants, the situation is more complicated. The Agrarian Party cannot by any means speak for the whole mass of the peasantry; but it is essentially a peasant organisation. When the first measures against the Communists were undertaken by the Zankoff Government there was, up and down the country, a lamentable lack of discrimination between Agrarians, who may have been merely political opponents of the bourgeois parties, and Communists, who were prepared to give effect to their opposition by resort to arms. For the mistakes then committed there has been, so far as is known, no definite attempt on the part of the Government to make its peace with the section, by no means negligible, of the peasantry, whose loyalty was severely strained by its being officially identified with the Communists. In the absence of such an attempt it would be quite in keeping with the Balkan temperament that peasants profoundly loyal to their King and country should deliberately throw in their lot with the Communists in order to be avenged on the authorities of the day.

If, then, the situation in Bulgaria is as critical as the events of recent weeks and Government utterances imply, it is evident that drastic measures on an indiscriminate scale will provide no satisfactory settlement. The Communist danger would seem to justify an attempt to dislodge those of the Agrarian Party who have drifted into Communism as the only effective Opposition camp, but are far from subscribing to Third International principles. To achieve this end, the Government may have to go back on much that it has said or done during the last eighteen months, when it was refusing to recognise the fact that the peasantry had any grounds for complaint. An appeal to the patriotism of Bulgarians, however, is not likely to miscarry. The indefinite prolongation of the existing state of affairs cannot fail to have serious consequences for the country. The genius of the Bulgarian lies in hard practical work, and if ever there was a time calling for the undivided attention of the nation to the business that it has on hand it is now when so much leeway has to be made up, as a result of the War. The spectacle that the country presents abroad in the face of all these murders is not an edifying one. It is recognised that if a murder is determined upon, and a resolute man can be found willing to carry it out, no standard of police efficiency is likely to prevent the crime; but it is a serious matter if time after time the assassins escape. The analogy of other countries would argue collusion or cowardice on the part of the general public; in Bulgaria there can be no question of such a thing. Impunity of criminals from arrest, however, must sooner or later react on the state of public security, and Bulgaria will then have added to the disabilities imposed on her from abroad others of her own devising. Rather than face this risk, the Government would be well advised to take all the naturally law-abiding elements in the country into its confidence.

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MAP OF YUGOSLAVIA.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES.

Monthly Supplement to THE NEAR EAST.

No. 1.

SURVEY OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

The year 1924 has ended for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes with results which are worth reviewing, both as a record of work accomplished and as an indication of what still remains to be done in the sphere of economic life.

Exports.

The balance of trade, though expected, is one of the clearest proofs of the reconstitution of the country. Exports have increased over those of the preceding year, both in quantity and value. The monthly figures for the year read as follows :—

	EXPORTS.	
Month.	Tonnage.	Value in Dinars.
January	220,110	668,989,032
February	228,436	646,073,582
March	266,718	746,3 5,840
April	260,9:0	725,294,276
May	318,973	738,583,584
June	289,782	650,664,631
July	335,949	686,286,373
August	389,674	854,687,891
September	384,596	937,368,216
October	415,726	1,007,833,266
November	379,980	922,463,063
December	406,836	953,194,679

Thus the totals for the year are 391,570 trucks of goods, representing a value of 9,540,574,433 dinars.

In 1923, 275,198 trucks were exported, representing a value of 7,230,689,823 dinars. The increase is, therefore, considerable, and it will be recalled that the 1923 results were looked upon as very satisfactory. Export during December was very large, especially of maize, of which the quantity still available for export is estimated at 20,000 truckloads. Thus from 220,110 tons in January exports amounted to an average of 400,000 for the last three months of the year. This steady progress is most significant. It shows that the improvement of the means of transport and the adjustment of the customs tariff to competitive articles can only increase the amount of exports in the years to come.

Imports.

Import figures are available only for the first three quarters of 1924 :—

		Amount.		Value.	
1st Qr.	Kgs	204,971,986	...	1,832,654,674	dinars
	Pieces	317,935	...	31,757,561	,,
	Cu m.	27,780	...	3,745,180	,,
				1,928,157,415	,,
2nd Qr.	Kgs	253,303,753	...	1,833,217,061	dinars
	Pieces	229 013	...	41,099,399	,,
	Cu.m.	54,513	...	12,84 ,105	,,
				1,892,158,565	,,
3rd Qr.	Kgs	280,075,895	...	2,112,568,269	dinars
	Pieces	407.605	...	49,091,942	,,
	Cu.m.	60.204	...	14,489,105	,,
				2,176,149,316	,,

For the first nine months of 1924 the total results for imports were thus :—Kilograms, 738,351,634 ; pieces, 954,553 ; cubic metres, 142,497, of a total value of 5,995,365,296 dinars. Exports for the same period were 6,654,263,425 dinars. It is estimated that the final returns for the year 1924 will show imports amounting to 8,400,000,000 dinars.

The Dinar.

The recovery of the dinar went on steadily throughout 1924. Starting at 6.40 Swiss francs, the rate moved as follows :—

January	6·40	July	6·42
February	6·68	August	6·60
March	6·75	September	7·20
April	7·05	October	7·55
May	7·0	November	7·50
June	6·90	December	7·80

At the present time the dinar is stable in the neighbourhood of 8.35-8.50, after having risen to a maximum of 9.25 on January 10. In official circles a rapid and indefinite rise of the Yugoslav exchange is not considered as essential. Such a rise, indeed, might prove a serious obstacle to the export of cereals. Nevertheless, there are no indications, apart from the desires or interests of exporters, of a fall in the rate of the dinar.

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FOREIGN TRADE OF THE S.H.S. KINGDOM.

The damage done during the War caused the trade of the S.H.S. Kingdom to be passive for several years. The commercial balance of the Kingdom was as follows (in millions of dinars) :—

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924. (approx.).
Imports...	2,982·0	3,465·8	4,122·0	6,441·1	8,309·6	8,400·3
Exports...	686·8	1,320·6	2,460·7	3,691·1	8,048·8	9,540·5

Thus the percentage of the value of exports as compared with that of imports was as follows :—

1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
%	%	%	%	%	
23·03 ...	38·10 ...	59·69 ...	57·29...	96·86 ...	116·38 (approx.

The percentages for the years 1922 and 1921, especially for 1922, are misleading, because by a mistake of the Customs Service consignments of German reparations in kind were entered under imports for that year. If the statistics of reparations receipts in kind had been kept in separate records, the trade balance for the Kingdom for that year would have been shown as much more favourable. In 1923 equilibrium was almost reached; and last year the balance in favour of exports will amount to over a milliard dinars.

Imports during 1923 amounted to 3,025,914 tons, as compared with 3,915,700 tons in 1924, an increase in the latter year of 29.4 per cent.

The chief articles of export in 1924 were :—

		Amount.	Mil. dinars.
Wood (a) timber	tons...	1,046,292	1,620·2
(b) for fuel	tons...	508,797	166·6
Corn (a) wheat	tons...	172,401	683·6
(b) other cereals	tons...	36,499	121·1
Live cattle	head..	168,100	745·3
Eggs	tons...	20,129	618·5
Maize	tons...	245,146	585·2
Meat (a) fresh	tons...	17,183	452·9
(b) products	tons...	2,013	85·5
Raw copper	tons...	7,605	346·5
Wheaten flour	tons...	59,075	343·1
Pigs	head .	86,183	271·4
Horses	head .	55,193	231·7
Cement	tons...	341,628	189·4
Prunes	tons...	19,940	179·1
Hemp	tons...	6,975	158·2
Haricot beans	tons...	32,259	155·7
Hides of game	tons...	201	154·5
Sheet lead	tons...	9,370	122·8
Kachkavalj cheese	tons...	2,898	108·1
Stock : small live	head .	387,020	100·1
Hop	tons...	1,278	91·4
Calcium carbide	tons...	18,105	81·4
All other goods	tons...	1,228,608	1,926·4
Total	tons...	3,915,700	9,538·7

The chief articles of export were exported to the following countries (the figures in parentheses represent the value in millions of dinars) :—

Wood.—(a) Timber : Italy (1,171.1), Hungary (91.1), France (82.1); (b) for fuel : Italy (78.2), Hungary (70.9), Switzerland (8.8).

Live Cattle.—Italy (339.9), Austria (223.2), Greece (94.8).

Corn.—(a) Wheat : Czechoslovakia (177.5), Austria (157.1), Hungary (140.6); (b) other cereals : Greece (59.1), Austria (35.2), Roumania (11.8).

Eggs.—Switzerland (271.9), Austria (188.4), Italy (65.8).

Meat.—(a) Fresh : Austria (329.8), Italy (66.8), Czechoslovakia (19.2); (b) products : Italy (40.9), Austria (16.3), Czechoslovakia (10.1).

Maize.—Austria (285.9, Czechoslovakia (146.2), Roumania (48.9).

Raw Copper.—France (233.9), Germany (89.1), Roumania (22.6).

Wheaten Flour.—Austria (167.9), Czechoslovakia (119.6), Hungary (22.5).

Pigs.—Austria (172.1), Czechoslovakia (87.6), Italy (7.9).

Horses.—Italy (109.6), Austria (49.5), Greece (49.3).

The chief countries of destination during 1924 were :—

	Tons.	Dinars.	%
Italy	1,530,878	2,757,305,162	23·91
Austria	452,338	2,332,971,109	24·46
Czechoslovakia	244,333	943,747,132	9·89
Hungary	699,284	756,133,382	7·93
Greece	255,374	676,169,377	7·09
Switzerland	70,226	389,554,057	4·08
Germany	45,461	388,962,378	4·08
France	84,205	362,874,301	3·08
Roumania	91,656	252,623,807	2·65
England	75,602	131,529,807	1·38
Other countries	366,343	546,904,285	5·73
Total	3,915,700	9,538,774,432	100%

The five most important countries of destination during the last four years were (percentages given) :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Italy	23·45	8·05	28·66	28·91
Austria	35·86	22·97	28·93	24·46
Czechoslovakia	4·10	8·11	7·82	9·89
Hungary	1·21	5·24	4·79	7·93
Greece	5·19	4·67	5·74	7·09

AGRICULTURE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

I.—THE YEAR'S PRODUCTION.

As regards agricultural production, last year gave more satisfactory results than any other post-War year. Production increased, not only because a larger surface came under production, but also because the methods of production were more modern and scientific.

In 1924 over 4½ million hectares were under cereals, which is a considerable advance on 1923. The distribution was as follows :—

	1924. Hectares.	1923. Hectares.
Wheat	1,688,337	1,623,982
Maize	—	1,943,525
Rye	195,000	194,000
Barley	380,000	373,000
Oats	384,257	386,000
Sugar beet	55,000	28,406

Last year's harvest was good, and satisfied the expectations of even the greatest optimists, both as to quantity and quality. This was particularly true of the harvest of maize, beet, and tobacco.

Wheat promised throughout the year to give a yield such as is rarely realised, but, unfortunately, as a result of unfavourable weather, its quality was much spoiled at the very last. The wheat became light, and at the same time large quantities of weeds appeared. In Voivodina the average weight was 75-76 kgs., with 3 per cent. weed, and in the south 68.72 kgs., with 8-15 per cent. weed. The price of wheat varied throughout the year between 290 and 350 dinars, and at the end of the year rose to 390.

Export of wheat last year began almost immediately after the harvest. The largest buyer was Czechoslovakia; then came Austria and Italy. For Western countries purchases were made by Belgian firms. This enhanced export was due mainly to the fact that last year's wheat harvest failed in general throughout Europe, especially in countries which consume Yugoslav wheat, while the crop was also poor in competing countries—Hungary, Roumania, and Bulgaria. According to the estimate of the International Agricultural Institute at Rome, the production of wheat fell by 16 per cent.

A rather smaller surface was sown with maize than in the preceding year, but the crop was so extraordinarily good, both in quantity and quality,

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that it exceeded those of all former years. Such a harvest attracted foreign buyers. To make the maize suitable for export, drying houses were erected in many places, and the drying houses for prunes were also used for maize. Thus large quantities of maize were exported in October, November, and December. Advance bookings of maize were also made last year, for delivery in March, April, and May of this year. At the beginning of last year the price of maize was 270 dinars, but by the end of the year it had fallen to 190-210. A very lively export of maize is expected this year.

Plums.

The plum crop was very poor last year, and fell below the amounts estimated. Rainy weather had a bad effect on the orchards, and even from the flower it was evident that the crop would be poor. A good quantity of fresh plums was exported, for the producers found it more profitable to sell the fruit fresh than to dry it and sell with very small return. Only a small quantity of plums was used for brandy, because a considerable quantity of brandy remained over from the previous year. There was not much drying, the quality of the plums being inferior to that of the preceding season.

According to the statistics available, about 450 trucks of dried plums were brought to the markets. After drying, most of the plums were large, running for the most part from 80 to 85 to the half-kilo, then 70 to 75 and 95 to 100. The price of prunes was on the average 8.50 dinars during the first half-year, and for the second half the starting price was 9.50. Prunes were exported mainly to Austria and Czecho-Slovakia, in smaller quantities to Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Poland, and the Scandinavian countries. Very little plum preserve was exported last year, the demand being very small.

The number of plum trees in the S.H.S. Kingdom is 56,000,000.

Statistics of Live Stock.

The numbers of stock at the beginning of 1924 showed an increase over the figures for 1923, except in the case of cattle and pigs, which had decreased somewhat owing to the lack of fodder in the previous year. The returns are as follow :—

	1924.		1923.
Horses	1,062,893	.....	1,034,139
Cattle	3,869,9?5	.....	4,053,115
Pigs	2,496,723	.....	2,577 704
Sheep	7,639.257	.....	7,542,110
Goats	1,730,204	.....	1,681,219
Poultry	14,195,968	.....	13,153,670

Industrial Production.

Industrial production considerably increased last year, although it had difficulties to surmount and high rates of interest to pay. In 1923 the total export of the country was 8,048,000,000 dinars, and of this 3,600,000,000 dinars were industrial products. In the first half of 1924 industrial products accounted for 2,200,000,000 dinars, out of a total of 4,176,000,000. It is estimated that during the twelve months September 1, 1924, to August 31, 1925, the export of industrial products will amount to 4,439,000,000 dinars.

II.—CEREALS IN 1924.

In contrast to the preceding year, 1924 was a year of abundant rain. All the cereal crops developed, and right up to the eve of harvest the prospects were most favourable. But torrential rains just at that time spoilt the quality of the grain. From the point of view of weight the wheat was inferior to that of the preceding year; on the other hand, the frequent rains caused much blight, and increased the amount of waste.

Barley was lighter, and the grain was blackish green, and is likely to spoil quickly. The greater part of the crop, therefore, has an odour known as "storage odour." Such barley is rarely used by breweries. Export began briskly, but demands ceased as soon as buyers found that the quality was inferior.

The rye crop was far inferior to that of the preceding year, and the whole crop was exported in the three months following the harvest. The harvest in general in 1924 was satisfactory as to quantity, but below the average in quality.

In 1923 the average weight of wheat was 78 kg. in Voivodina, and 76 in Serbia and the south. In 1924 wheat scarcely reached 75 kg. in Voivodina, and 70 in Serbia and the south. In the neighbouring countries the harvest was very poor. Czecho-Slovakia, in particular, was obliged to import large quantities of wheat. Hungary, which is ordinarily one of the greatest producing countries, had to import in order to protect its milling industry, which would otherwise have suffered severely from the poor crops.

Roumania and Bulgaria have forbidden the export of wheat. Towards the end of the year Bulgaria ran short of wheat, and since the end of November has appeared as a buyer. This has had a considerable influence on prices here. At the end of December also Bulgaria received a large consignment from America, an event which had never happened previously.

Judging from data received so far, it seems that in general last year's harvest was in Europe 20 per cent. and in America 10 per cent. inferior to that of the preceding year.

With the opening of the export of wheat from this country, the first buyers were Austria and Czechoslovakia, and then the great firms of Antwerp. The demand became very lively, and export took place both up the Danube and towards Braila for transhipment for the Eastern ports. Since the end of the harvest export has been very brisk, and it is safe to say that during the last three months as much has been exported as is usually spread over nine months. Naturally this large demand has had a great influence on the level of prices, which rose from 290 to 320 at the beginning (July to August) to 400 and 435 in the middle of October. These prices were maintained until the most urgent foreign needs were supplied. Later, export fell off rapidly, and continued to fall until in the middle of November prices reached a level below world parity. The fall was due to the lack of liquid funds both in this country and in the consuming States. The financial position of this country removed the possibility of speculation, so that exporters limited their purchases to the amounts which they were sure to sell quickly. The consumers in the same way only bought to supply their most urgent needs. This practice was adopted by the mills which had only limited amounts of liquid capital, and therefore did not dare to amass stocks of raw material or flour.

The stagnation of wheat export continued till the second half of November. The market then became lively again as a result of renewed demands from the neighbouring States. During December Bulgaria made large purchases of wheat, especially from Serbia, and prices began to improve rapidly until in the Serbian centres they reached 400 dinars, and in Batchka and the Banat 435 dinars. The mills within the country were themselves obliged as a result to buy at high prices.

It was not until the end of the year that the insufficiency of the world harvest became felt in all

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the producing countries. Thus towards the end of December Budapest and Vienna quoted 540 dinars for wheat weighing only 76 kgs.

Yugoslavia opened the new year with considerably diminished wheat reserves, while prices are now as high as on foreign markets. The producers still have sufficient stocks in hand to supply the needs of the country until the next harvest, and, also as a result of the excellent maize crop, are able to export large amounts.

The maize harvest throughout the land was much better than that of wheat. The good quality of the crop and the low prices in comparison with world prices attracted foreign buyers. Export has been going on in all directions in barges ever since October and November. Artificial drying ceased in December, when the export of dried maize began.

Picking off the grain followed immediately, and the maize in grain came on the market. The export of maize in trucks reached its apex in December. The first consignments inspired confidence among foreign buyers, so that the demand increased. Important orders have been booked for delivery in January and February. Besides Czechoslovakia, the chief buyers are Italy, Switzerland, and Southern Germany. It should also be noted that barge deliveries continued steadily throughout November and December. The winter has been mild, and navigation on the Sava and Danube has not been interrupted. Exporters profited by this circumstance to load barges with "provisionally dried" maize for export to Austria and Czechoslovakia.

III.—THE MOVEMENT OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Exports.

Figures are not yet available of the export of wheat for the whole of 1924. The returns so far cover eleven months only, but for this period show an export of 15,582 trucks, of a value of 579.4 million dinars, as compared with 9,645 trucks, valued at 381.5 dinars, in 1923.

In the countries of destination there has also been a great change. In 1924 Czechoslovakia bought 4,361 trucks, to the value of 170.7 million dinars: Austria 3,613 trucks, worth 139.6 million. During the whole of 1923 Czechoslovakia bought 243 trucks, worth 9 million dinars, and Austria 7,628 trucks, worth 303.8 million. Thus Czechoslovakia took the first place in 1924, whereas in 1923 she was only fifth, and after Greece and Fiume. In 1924 Austria, Hungary, and Roumania all came after Czechoslovakia in this respect.

Export of flour during the same period amounted to 5,079 trucks, of a value of 291.8 million dinars. During the whole of 1923 the export was 3,824 trucks, valued at 233.1 million dinars.

In 1924 Austria was the principal buyer of Yugoslav flour, with 2,703 trucks, worth 154.1 million dinars, while in 1923 she purchased 2,599 trucks, valued at 137.7 million. In 1924 Czechoslovakia was second with 1,779 trucks, worth 104 million dinars, while in 1923 she was only fourth with 218 trucks, worth 12.8 million dinars. Greece also increased her purchase of Yugoslav flour in 1924.

Imports.

During the first nine months of 1924 Yugoslavia imported 66 trucks of cereals, of a value of 2,283,200 dinars. Hungary was the chief importing country, with 41 trucks, worth 1,378,075 dinars: Italy was second with 17 trucks, worth 674,072 dinars. The imports for the whole of 1923 were 211 trucks of cereals, worth 7,797,619 dinars. The greater part came from Hungary (112 trucks, worth 3.2 million dinars); the United States of America were second with 24 trucks, worth 970,185 dinars, and the Argentine third with 20 trucks, worth 1,242,000 dinars. It is noticeable that in 1924 the imports of wheat from the Argentine did not exceed those from Albania and the Indies. On the other hand, in the first nine months of 1924 there was an importation of 100 kgs. of French wheat, whereas in 1923 there was none from that country.

During the first nine months of 1924 the import of flour into Yugoslavia was greater in value than that for the whole of 1923, 1,653 trucks of flour, worth 70,483,210 dinars, as compared with 1,661 trucks, worth 69,114,048 dinars, for the whole of the preceding twelve months. During the two years the import of flour has been mainly Italian (1,357 trucks, worth 54.7 million dinars for the whole of 1923, as compared with 1,590 trucks, worth 67.8 million, for the first nine months of 1924). The import of flour from America decreased considerably in 1924.

IV.—EXPORT OF TOBACCO.

A beginning has been made by the management of the State Monopolies of the S.H.S. Kingdom with the sale of leaf tobacco prepared for export. The total amount of tobacco prepared is 6,000,000 kgs., of which the following quantities have been sold:—

(1) Czechoslovak Tobacco Administration—
  (a) Serbian and South Serbian tobacco, 1920 and 1921 yield, 193,071 kgs.
  (b) Serbian, South Serbian, Herzegovinian, and Dalmatian, 1922 yield, 316,000 kgs.

(2) Polish State Administration—
  Serbian, South Serbian, Herzegovinian, and Dalmatian, 1923 yield, 232,000 kgs.

Further sales are anticipated shortly, as there is an increasing interest in tobacco from the S.H.S. Kingdom. It is understood that the Monopoly is negotiating not only with the Czech and Polish Administrations, but also with other wholesale tobacco merchants, and that the prospects for an agreement are favourable.

In view of the good quality of Yugoslav leaf, known on the international market as "Oriental tobacco," and as a result of the great care now being devoted to its preparation for export, the Monopoly is confident of being able to guarantee the satisfaction of buyers, and anticipates large sales in the future. Yugoslav tobacco in the past has made no effort to meet the competition of inferior leaf, which has also been less carefully prepared.

V.—LIVESTOCK.

Cattle.—The year 1924 was very favourable for stock raising. Throughout the country cattle were in good condition and pasturage abundant, with the result that the price of lean beasts rose (a rare occurrence), for the breeders reserved cattle for fattening. This was especially the case in Serbia, where the numbers of stock had fallen off considerably in 1923 by reason of the drought, and the owners had sold them off at any price. Thus there had been a relatively poor export in 1923. Last year export went mainly to Italy, to which country the best horned cattle, *i.e.*, heifers and young bullocks, are exported for slaughter. After Italy came Austria, with an export of animals for slaughter and

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of milk cows; Czechoslovakia, with animals for slaughter and lean bullocks for fattening at the refineries and alcohol factories; and lastly, Greece, with small cattle, partly from South Serbia and partly from Bosnia.

Sheep.—The export of sheep diminished considerably, both because of the abundance of grazing and because of the increase of the manufacture of *Kachkavalj* cheese. The cultivators of South Serbia, and especially of the busy Pirot district, bought milk from Voivodina, Slavonia, and Croatia —cow's milk at 2-2.5 dinars and ewe milk at 3, 4, and 5 dinars for the manufacture of *Kachkavalj* cheese, which was exported via Salonika and Constantinople even to America. In the mountainous parts of Serbia the milk contains a large percentage of caseine, and the cheese is of excellent quality. In these parts the price of milk is very high.

Pigs.—There was a diminution in the number of pigs. Disease caused some falling off, but the greatest blow was the prohibition of export issued in 1922. At that time many pig-breeders got rid of their herds, and have not since renewed them. Moreover, last year in general was not favourable for pig-raising. It began with very high prices for unfattened pigs (up to 100 dinars), while the price of maize remained at about 300 dinars. Prices reached 24 to 25 dinars only temporarily. Later on there was a fall in the price of unfattened pigs and maize, and a rise in that of fattened animals. In August the European market was flooded with pigs from Poland and Roumania, which ousted those of Denmark and the Netherlands.

Not much has been done for the improvement of the breeds of pigs. Towards the end of the year some stud animals were purchased in Switzerland, but the official report does not say of what kind. They were utilised in Slovenia, Croatia, Voivodina, and Serbia for the improvement of degenerate breeds. On the other hand, Slovenian and Croatian beasts were sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina to help in the removal of the poor breed known as "Boushak."

Advantage should be taken of the extension of the *Kachkavalj* industry and the increase of the flocks of sheep to assist the development of the textile industry. Not much has been done in this direction, although many trials on large estates have shown that *Rambulja* might very well be developed in this country.

VI.—THE HIDE MARKET.

Raw Hides.—An examination of the movement of the prices of raw hides in 1924 shows that the year began with firm quotations, which weakened in summer and again strengthened towards the end of the year. The world markets were fluctuating throughout the year, and this had disturbing effects in Yugoslavia. Until May prices remained steady, based on foreign quotations and the rate of the dinar. But in that month a change took place abroad, and the prices of large raw hides began to fall rapidly. With this came the slow but steady improvement of the dinar. As a result, merchants in the country and industries employing raw hides found that it paid them better to import from abroad than to purchase within the country. Naturally this had a fatal influence on the local market; prices fell by 15 to 20 per cent. Towards the end of the year, however, conditions in foreign markets improved. A greater activity in the industry took place everywhere, with a better demand for raw materials. Higher prices ruled, but more so abroad than in Yugoslavia, for the dinar continued to rise at the same time. The year ended with prices 10 per cent. lower than in January.

Tanned Hides.—The last auction organised by the Butchers' Co-operative at Zagreb realised the following prices:—

For hides of horned cattle, up to 30 kgs., 20.50 dinars; above 30 kgs., 22.50 dinars; calf hides, 34.25 dinars per kilogram. These prices showed that conditions for hides had not changed very much from those of the preceding month. Prices of calf hides alone had increased by 0.25 dinars.

VII.—BRANDY.

No article of internal trade has experienced such a rise in price as brandy. The plum harvest in 1923 was abundant. Six thousand truck loads of prunes were dried, and large quantities of brandy were distilled. At the end of 1923, therefore, prices reached their minimum of 0.40 dinars per degree of alcohol at Belgrade, and 0.30-0.35 in the interior. At the opening of 1924 there were abundant stocks of brandy everywhere, so that prices were maintained until May, when forecasts for the 1924 harvest could be made. Then it was evident that the yield was small and that the harvest would be poor. Prices strengthened, and during May rose by 10 per cent. The rise would have been even greater if there had not still been large supplies from the old stocks. During June and July the plum harvest was definitely gauged. From almost every district news arrived of a deficit. The whole yield was dried, for the prices of prunes were favourable. In June, brandy prices had already increased by 100 per cent. over January, and the rise continued throughout August and September. In October, November, and December it became evident that the old stocks were exhausted, and the rise continued up to 250 per cent. by the end of the year. What will the position be in 1925?

Whatever happens, prices will be maintained until September, even if the yield of plums is greater than the estimate. A good harvest cannot take effect in the spring or summer, and from September onwards there will be no more of last year's brandy.

"*Spiritulja*," a substitute for brandy, will appear on the market. It is, therefore, possible that the larger part of the last harvest will be used for distillation.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN 1924.

Throughout 1924 the State, in common with merchants and business in general, suffered severely from lack of funds; but, in spite of this circumstance, the Ministry of Communications not only did not interrupt work already begun, but also undertook new work and the construction of new lines. In the course of the year there were finished and opened 66 kilometres of normal-gauge line between Topchider and Mala Krsna, which give Belgrade a double connection with the interior of Serbia, and its first link by railway with Pozarevatz. This is very important for the maintenance of normal business between Belgrade and its economic hinterland. Further, the 53 kilometres of normal line between Veles and Shtip were also completed and opened during the year, as well as 28 kilometres of the new line Titel-Orlovat, which,

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by way of the Tissa, will connect the Banat with Batchka and Srem. This latter line, although completed some months ago, is not yet opened, because the large bridge over the Tissa could not be finished at the same time owing to the stoppage of deliveries on account of reparations from Germany. Work was also continued in connection with an Adriatic line, Prahovo-Lower Danube-Nish-Merdare-Adriatic. A branch line of 28 kilometres has been begun from the Nish-Vranje line near Doljevatz towards Prokuplje. The 67 kilometres of the branch line Grachatz-Knin have also been completed, by means of which the ports of Shibenik and Split are linked via Ogoulin with the normal-gauge system. This very important line will soon be ready. The narrow-gauge line Uzhitze-Vardishte, 58 kilometres, was opened to traffic on January 25. This line provides direct connection across Serbia and Bosnia for a distance of 900 kilometres, from the Lower Danube via Zajechar, Parachin, Stalach, Uzhitze-Sarajevo to the Adriatic ports, Metkovitch, Gruj-Ragusa, and Zelenika, on the Gulf of Cattaro. The line Chachak-Lajkovatz-Mladenovatz-Belgrade has also been completed, with a connection by boat to Obrenovatz-Zabrezhije, until the narrow-gauge line Obrenovatz-Belgrade is constructed.

VIII.—THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

This article of consumption passed through two chief phases during 1924, the first comprising the period from January to September, and the other from September to the end of the year. During the first period Yugoslavia was supplied with sugar partly from local refineries and partly from abroad. In 1923 national production covered two-thirds of the consumption. The refineries sold most of their production before March, and from March to September recourse was necessary to imported sugar and to the stocks conserved at the factories. During this time prices conformed strictly to those abroad. Yugoslav refineries were able to benefit by Customs protection and the difference in the prices of transport. Thus, as a result of the high prices of foreign sugar, they could sell their goods advantageously. Prices at this time varied between 22 and 19.50 dinars for lump sugar, i.e., 17 to 14.50 after deduction of the State tax on consumption. The cost price was 16.50 dinars, not reckoning duty. The sugar factories, therefore, made a profit of 200 per cent.

This was due to favourable conditions abroad and Customs protection, by which home production benefited. In 1923 the world-production of sugar decreased, while consumption constantly increased. In such conditions prices steadily rose, and this favoured the national industry. The refineries in the country, encouraged by their good fortune, decided to increase their production to cover the whole consumption of the nation. They offered cultivators instalments of payment in advance, seeds, etc. Weather conditions were altogether favourable, and the beet crop reached an unprecedented amount. It is estimated that the sugar production would reach from 4,000 to 5,000 trucks more than the country's requirements. Thus importers became exporters of sugar.

Just when the first stocks of the season's sugar arrived on the market a quick change in prices took place. From 19.70 dinars in August they fell to 13.50 in September. The cartel of the factories broke up, each trying to get rid of its own production. Through this competition prices reached an average level of 13.50 dinars in October. This is when the second period begins. The factories had several aims: to cover the country's consumption, to utilise all the raw material, to export the surplus, and to offer to the consumers at home the cheapest sugar possible. At first they achieved their aim, to the satisfaction of all. They competed against one another as to who should use most beet and who would be first on the market. The competition did not hinder them from realising good profits. But such goodwill did not last. They could not make 200 per cent. profit as they had done in 1923. and they re-formed the cartel. But instead of forming a cartel to organise export, in order to assure the rational sale of produce on foreign markets, their cartel was designed exclusively for the exploitation of the home market, each factory being free to export according to its own convenience. The fact that the State factories have joined the cartel has provoked lively protest from public opinion.

Immediately on its formation the cartel increased prices by 20 per cent. over those of the period of free competition, and these remained until the end of the year.

IX.—THE COFFEE MARKET.

Conditions in the coffee market depended on foreign markets and the rate of the dinar. At the beginning of the year ordinary Rio quoted 36 dinars, while the year finished with prices varying from 43 to 44, *i.e.*, a rise of 20 per cent., while the dinar had improved by 28 per cent. Thus the real rise in price was 48 per cent. Abroad prices increased by 40 per cent., the additional 8 per cent. in Yugoslavia resulting from the increase of the agio, municipal duties, and other costs.

YUGOSLAV PORTS: 1—SIBENIK.

Sibenik (Sibenico) is one of the Yugoslav harbours on the Adriatic which deserves to be rather better known than it is. At this moment it is still sorely handicapped by the disability it shares with almost every other Yugoslav port—to wit, the lack of communication by rail with the interior. Of all Yugoslav ports (except Susak), Gruz alone has a terminus by the waterside, and though the line in question is only the Bosnian narrow-gauge railway, it is considerably better than nothing. Yet Split (Spalato) and Sibenik are magnificent natural ports, and the country behind them has many valuable products for export. Fortunately, the broad-gauge line through Gracac and Knin is on the point of completion, and then both ports will at last be linked up with the normal-gauge system of Northern Yugoslavia. Even under existing conditions, however, Sibenik's trade is relatively large and important. During a visit to the place towards the end of last year, I took the trouble to find out what the actual export trade of Sibenik amounted to, and was rather surprised when I was given the following figures for the average monthly export to Great Britain alone: 50 tons of carbide, 30 tons of cellulose (for cardboard), 4,000 tons of bauxite, small consignments of textiles, mainly thick woollen blankets.

In the region not far behind Sibenik there are large deposits of bauxite, the exploitation of which is only just beginning. As it is, bauxite is by far the most important, as well as the largest, item on the list of Sibenik's exports, and there are always great consignments of it piled up on the wharf, ready for shipment.

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As a town, Sibenik is not without charm. The approach to the harbour is scarcely less beautiful than that of Gruz (Gravosa) itself, the view from the heights above the town over the maze of islands stretching away out to sea as far as the eye can reach, second to none from the other ports. Like Bakar, it is built very compactly on a steep slope topped by fortifications. No less than three formidable castles keep watch over Sibenik. The oldest dates back to the early Middle Ages, the youngest belongs to the latter days of the Austrian régime. There are no streets in the town proper, any more than in other Dalmatian towns—only narrow pavements and flights of steps between tall mediæval houses, one broad walk which serves as a market-place, and a spacious square on the harbour front. The greater part of the town dates back to the era of the great Subitch Bans, whose power and the part they played in the history of Dalmatia and Croatia recall the story of the Earls of Douglas in Scotland. The architectural glory of Sibenik is, of course, its famous cathedral—not a large building, but very ornate, and crowned by a beautiful lantern tower. The most remarkable feature of its decoration is an amazing frieze of heads round the outside of the east end of the church. These heads were obviously portraits, or, at least, modelled from life, and a very extraordinary collection of racial types the originals must have been! It is not known with absolute certainty why these heads should thus decorate the cathedral walls; but the received explanation seems to be that they are portraits of persons who subscribed to the cost of the building.

In and around Sibenik it is, or was until quite recently, still usual to see the handsome Dalmatian national dress in all its traditional beauty and picturesqueness. If you are an expert in these matters, you can tell by a glance at the little red or orange pill-box cap and the embroidery on bodice or shirt what is the precise home of the wearer, and whether he or she is Orthodox or Catholic. The Orthodox colours incline to be sombre—purple, dark blue, and olive predominate—whereas the Catholics introduce patches of scarlet and other bright hues. From Sibenik you can take the local steamer to the little old town of Skradin, whence you can easily make the delightful trip to the Falls of the Krka—Dalmatia's miniature Niagara, still unspoilt in its setting of green vegetation amid the surrounding grey of the typical Dalmatian cliffs, and wasting its I don't remember how many h.p. upon a mere display of beauty.

From Skradin you can go on, if you like, by motor coach to Benkovats, one of the few Dalmatian inland towns, not dramatically picturesque, but interesting as the centre of the Serbian Orthodox community of those parts, and a place where the peasant costumes are specially beautiful. Within a mile or two of Benkovats is the well-defined site of the Roman city or fort of Asseria, the vast foundations of its outer walls still very little the worse for war and wear, although some experts place them even before the Roman era.

It is the historic pride of Sibenik and the countryside around that it was never in any way conquered by Venice. It was always a specifically Yugoslav stronghold. Only the beauty of its buildings recalls Italian influence, although the actual architect of the Cathedral is assumed, on good grounds, to have been a Yugoslav.

There is no British consul or consular agent in Sibenik, and British interests are left to the care of such English-speaking Dalmatians as will take the trouble to look after them. Efforts are being made to start an English-speaking society in Sibenik on the model of the one in Ljubljana, which M. Bogdanovitch, who lives in Sibenik, helped to start.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S. KINGDOM.

Belgrade, February 8, 1925.

Cash—			
Gold	72,361,549·15	...	—
Silver	17,457,516·20	...	—
Foreign Bank Notes	2,885,146	...	—
At call in Foreign Countries	364,619,086·59	...	457,323,297·94
Portfolio Bills	1,209,639,554 05	...	—
Advances on Securities	201,771,107·75	...	1,411,410,661·80
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank notes	—	...	1,186,367,906·76
Account of the Provisional Exchange	—	...	367,963,334·24
Advances to the State—			
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034	...	—
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000	...	2,966,355,034
State Domains—			
For cover of Bank-notes issued for conversion of Crown-notes	—	...	2,138,377,163
Sundries	—	...	606,661,399·21
			9,134,458,796·95

LIABILITIES.

Capital: Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up	—	...	25,524,300
Legal Reserve	—	...	5,836,945·82
Banknotes in circulation	—	...	5,895,870,270
Account of the Provisional Exchange	—	...	367,963,334·24
Government's Accounts—			
Sundry Accounts—	...	...	2,062,541·92
Sundry Obligations—			
Current Accounts	329,358,873·42	...	—
Special Accounts	305,744,090·55	...	635,102,963·97
Account of the State Domains	—	...	2,138,377,163
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds	—	...	63,721,278
Sundry Accounts	—	...	9,134,458,796·95

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, and an Italian lira, a Swiss or French franc and a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6%, loans on securities 8%.

PICTURES OF YUGOSLAVIA.

It is a very gay show of water-colours and drawings that Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, those peripatetic artists whose books have attained an easy and merited popularity, have organised at the Twenty-One Gallery, Adelphi. The zest of living in, the joy of reproducing, or, rather, of representing, the characteristics of such places as Bosnia and Dalmatia and Sweden and Lapland, the whole fun of the artistic outlook and experience, are very manifest in this exhibition. The little walls of this tiny gallery almost quiver with the enthusiasm of their dependents.

But upon the water-colours, to most of which Mr. Ian Gordon must plead guilty, what shall one say? It seems a little ungracious to one who has so breathlessly and brightly put down what he thought such places as Mostar and Najac and Kortsula looked like, to say that almost every picture suggests a mental echo of camouflaged battleships, of a rioting of colours the object of which, however useful it might be, was not artistic. At times, of course, he gets his effects with striking accuracy, as in "Mountain Railway in Bosnia," but often, and particularly in his studies of Najac, he resembles Mr. Eric Kennington at his wilfullest. Possibly it is because one has not been there, but one cannot help thinking that the cheery little sketches of Lapland (one, especially delightful, is called "Suorva Dam, Lapland") are more faithful and less strained than are the Dalmatian and Bosnian water-colours. It

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is a characteristic sign of discretion, anyway, that the Balkan pictures are less highly priced than those of Sweden and of Lapland.

On the whole, one prefers Mrs. Cora Gordon's drawings. In this medium she is enabled to convey without exaggeration the essential quaintness of her subjects. She has some charming sketches of Mostar, and one of Najac, showing the fountain, is very attractive.

This exhibition should not be missed by anyone, whatever he may think of the artists' technique, who wishes to renew in a fresh way the memories of his travels in one of the most picturesque parts of the Balkans.

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.**

BRITAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The elections in Yugoslavia have passed off with comparatively little excitement, and with no untoward incidents to speak of. Reports appear to agree that the poll was quite free, and that the authorities put no pressure of any kind upon the electors. M. Pashitch's party has been returned with a clear majority over the aggregate strength of the Opposition *bloc*, and continuity of administration would, therefore, seem to be assured to Yugoslavia for some time to come.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of such a result. It means that a calmer political atmosphere will be found in Yugoslavia than has obtained hitherto, and consequently the economic development of the country should now be able to go forward without interruption in the form of recurrent governmental crises.

Political stability will bring with it increased economic stability; while the continuance in office of M. Stoyadinovitch—the able Finance Minister who is imbued with sound British ideas of the necessity of living on income and not on capital—is a guarantee that the policy of gradual deflation will continue, with a consequent steady improvement in the exchange. That the Yugoslav dinar should stand at approximately 290 after having had to redeem, shortly after the Armistice, countless millions of worthless Austro-Hungarian kronen, and that the Budget is balanced and exports exceed imports, these things alone afford striking proof of the resources of the country. The natural wealth of Yugoslavia is not realised in England, nor is it generally known here that the pre-war policy of Austro-Hungary was to hold back the commercial development of her South Slav provinces until she had consolidated her own position and won through to Salonika.

Yugoslavia stands in urgent need of foreign capital and technical skill to develop her natural wealth—mainly in foodstuffs, timber and minerals—and England might well supply part of it; in return there is a population almost wholly agricultural, of from 13 millions, who import practically all the manufactured articles they use. It only remains to add that Yugoslavia now has her own port where British ships can unload British goods, and a rapidly developing railway system to carry these goods throughout the country.

One of the chief obstacles to the development of British-Yugoslav commercial relations so far has been the almost complete ignorance of Yugoslavia which prevails in England. Information about Yugoslavia usually emanates from neighbouring and often hostile countries, and is supplemented by the anti-Serb propaganda here of ardent partisans of Bulgaria and Albania. As a result Yugoslavia is still generally regarded as an unsettled country where the security of life and property hardly exists, whereas in reality the new Kingdom has, since the Armistice, been making valiant efforts to put its economic and political house in order, and to bring the country to the point where adequate security can be given to foreign capital.

Few serious students of Near Eastern affairs will deny that in the uncertain years to come it would be advantageous to Great Britain to play her part in helping to build up Yugoslavia's future, for the existence in South-Eastern Europe of a friendly country, strong, prosperous and bound to us by the close ties of a common effort in a great cause, *and resolved to fight Communism to the bitter end*, might well prove a factor of great value to us which we should do ill to overlook or underestimate.

With a little more goodwill and a little less criticism from this side, the temporary difficulties of Yugoslavia will in time be overcome and a great future for the peoples of the Triune Kingdom will be assured.—I am, etc.,

E. A. Plunkett, Brig.-General,
Formerly British Military Attaché, Belgrade.
8, Moore Street, Cadogan Square, S.W.3.

A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.

(*Continued from page* 219.)

of Eastern cities stands out as an example of all that a Briton should be—one to inspire respect and honour.

Tabriz is a truly Oriental city, and has gone through many vicissitudes, stands 1,200 feet above sea-level, and is, as its name indicates, healthy—*i.e.*, "tab riz," "free from fever."

The older generation speak only a Turkish dialect, especially in business, but all the younger generation speak Persian. Persian is now being taught in all the schools, and is the official language. The War has left the Persians very poor, and much money was lost through speculation in the Russian rouble, so that the buying capacity of the people is at a very low ebb, and whereas before the War there was a very good trade in high-class goods, now only the very cheapest is being bought. The market for British goods at present practically does not exist, and Italy, with her depreciated exchange, cheap labour, and cheap water power, is monopolising this market.

(To be concluded.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A little booklet, "Notes for Travellers," by the Right Rev. Rennie MacInnes, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, has just been published. The price in England is 1s. and may be obtained from the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth, 12, Warwick Square, S.W.1.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught arrived at Rangoon on February 18 by steamer from Calcutta, and were received by the Governor and his staff. At the conclusion of the festivities arranged in their honour at Government House, their Royal Highnesses will visit Upper Burma.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports from Allahabad that an epidemic of plague has broken out in the Sitapur district, and it is considered necessary to restrict pilgrim traffic. The Government has therefore instructed the railway authorities to cancel special trains in connection with the religious fairs at Nimsar and Misrikh.

While flying from Whitley Aerodrome on February 18 an officer of the Roumanian Air Force, Major Stefan Sanatescu, aged 35, was killed near Coventry. He had not left the aerodrome many minutes when the machine was seen to nose-dive, and he was found dead on the ground near his smashed machine. He had been flying from Whitley for a year or more.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Progress in Yugoslavia.

In this issue appears the first of a series of Monthly Supplements devoted to the affairs of Yugoslavia. As the information is compiled from official sources, these Supplements will furnish a record of the progress made by the country in the different spheres of public activity. The first Supplement contains a survey of the economic situation in 1924, and deals with different aspects of the agricultural position last year. In common with other Balkan States, the recovery of Yugoslavia from the effects of the War has necessarily been slow; but it will be found that, as soon as the leeway of the empty years has been overtaken, the great natural resources of the Triune Kingdom will enable it to play a prominent part in the development of the Balkan Peninsula, with its aggregate population of over forty-five millions.

Yugoslavia's Trade.

Considering the great difficulties which had to be faced, the country has progressed more rapidly than might have been expected. The trade figures for the past year plainly illustrate the position. Yugoslavia's exports in 1924 totalled four million tons of the value of 9½ milliard dinars, these totals representing increases respectively of 30 and 19 per cent. on the 1923 figures. Among the principal items of export are maize, wheat, wood, meat, and livestock, and these commodities are now taken principally by Italy, Austria, and Czecho-Slovakia. Trade with Great Britain, as I pointed out recently, is still on a rather small scale, but the tendency in recent months has been for it steadily to improve, and there are sound grounds for the belief that before long the commercial relations between the two countries will be on a fairly substantial basis.

A Balkan Exhibition.

It would no doubt greatly conduce towards this end if it were possible to have an exhibition of Yugoslav products in London. It is unfortunately true that we have had rather too much of exhibitions since the Armistice, but an exhibition of this kind has so much to commend it that I hope something may be done in this connection. Of course, it would be impossible to restrict it to Yugoslav products. If an exhibition were to be held it would have to cover the Balkan countries, and when one considers the various industries and agricultural products of these countries it will be evident that such an undertaking should prove most attractive to the public, and should be well worth while for the great effect it should have on British commercial relations with the peninsula.

Turkish Reparations.

On another page in this issue will be found an article detailing the story of developments in regard to Turkish reparations. The article concludes with a plea for patience on the part of claimants during the interval which must elapse while claims are being investigated, and it is pointed out that "reparations are not designed to give compensation for the effects of war which have been experienced by the rest of His Majesty's subjects, but only such special damage as their peculiar situation and circumstances enabled the late enemy to inflict by their acts or negligence." It would be surprising, seeing the time that has elapsed since the War, if those concerned were not impatient, and no one can fail to sympathise with them to the fullest degree, for they represent a body of individuals who took a leading part in the development of British trade overseas, and it is a cruel dispensation of providence that they should thus have to suffer for their enterprise. A meeting was held at the House of Commons on February 23 of those interested in the question, when Mr. E. A. St. A. Harney, K.C., M.P., outlined the facts of the case, and said that he was satisfied that members of the House of Commons did not appreciate the position, or it would long since have been remedied. The difficulty is, however, that it is impossible for the British taxpayer to meet everything, and he is already overburdened as it is.

Egypt's Trade Expansion.

Given that cotton is at a high price, and one need not be told that the trade statistics of Egypt are making an excellent showing, for the two things are synonymous. For 1924 there was a considerable expansion both as regards imports and exports, this tendency being more marked as regards the latter, with the result that the balance of trade

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in favour of Egypt is further increased. The value of the exports rose from £E58,387,327 to £E65,733,935, while that of the imports was £E50,736,918, as compared with £E45,276,963. It follows from these figures that there is a greatly increased potential purchasing power in the country which another successful tourist season (which all the indications point to) should considerably enhance. In the coming months, therefore, Egypt should loom much larger as a market, and with the cotton outlook decidedly firm, it is evident that there is no reason to anticipate any change in this position for a long time.

A Result of Wembley.

One development which it can only be assumed is the consequence of the great success achieved by some of the exhibitors from other parts of the Empire at Wembley is the appearance at one or two of what may be called the local exhibitions of goods from other countries. This is a hopeful augury as to the prospects of the new Wembley, where I anticipate that one of the most interesting pavilions will be that of Palestine. The exhibitors in that section as a whole did remarkably well last time, and it will be surprising if this year the number of stalls is not considerably increased. *En passant*, it is very welcome news to learn that it is possible after all that Burmah will again participate. The Burmese pavilion was one of the chief attractions from the artistic point of view.

COMMENTATOR.

TURKISH REPARATIONS.

The Present Position.

By Article 232 of the Treaty of Versailles Germany undertook to make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers by the aggression of Germany and her allies, and on May 4, 1920, the policy of His Majesty's Government as regards individual claimants was announced. At that date, speaking in the House of Commons concerning the payment of compensation to individual civilians for losses sustained by them in the War, the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the House that His Majesty's Government proposed to set aside a sum of five million pounds out of the first receipts on account of reparation which were allocated to the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, as distinct from the British Empire, to be used as a fund out of which payments might be made to individuals as an act of grace on the part of His Majesty's Government. At the same time the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that a special Commission would be appointed to examine claims upon this fund and to make awards out of it, which Commission was duly set up on August 15, 1921, and has become known as the Royal Commission on Compensation for Suffering and Damage by Enemy Action.

As a result of these administrative measures, persons belonging to the United Kingdom, as distinguished from those belonging to other parts of the British Empire, who had suffered damage in Turkey and former Turkish territory, were invited to send in their claims to the Reparation Claims Department of the Board of Trade, which claims were investigated by a special Commissioner sent to Turkey for the purpose.

The five million pounds being taken out of the first receipts on account of reparations allocated to the Exchequer of the United Kingdom only those British subjects who belonged to the United Kingdom, as distinguished from those entitled in other parts of the British Empire, were admitted to claim compensation against the fund at the disposal of the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission made its first report on January 22, 1923, which report dealt especially with loss of life, injury to health, maltreatment during interment, and loss of personal effects at sea, and as a result upwards of two million pounds were distributed amongst individuals who had made claims in respect of these categories of damage.

The second and final report of the Royal Commission appeared on February 26, 1924, and dealt with damage to property; after reviewing the whole of the work done by the Commission, it recommended that the fairest way to distribute the portion of the five million pounds allocated to property claims would be to give the first £250 of the assessment in full, and to pay in excess as follows: £250 to £1,000, 50 per cent.; £1,000 to £50,000, 30 per cent.; £50.000 to £100,000, 25 per cent.; over £100,000, 10 per cent.; but with the restriction that the compensation payable under these scales should not in any case exceed fifty thousand pounds.

The Treaty of Sevres, which was signed on August 10, 1920, provided that the Turkish Government should pay for all losses or damage suffered by civilian nationals in respect of their persons or property through the action or negligence of the Turkish authorities during the war, and a Financial Commission was to have been set up to ensure that all the resources of Turkey should be made available for this and other charges. But this treaty was never ratified, and when, after the Greek disasters in Asia Minor, the question of Turkish Reparations again came under discussion at Lausanne from November, 1923, to July, 1924, the Allied delegates at the Conference were confronted with the choice of accepting a paper covenant to pay a considerable sum, which could never materialise, or of making use of certain funds which the Peace Settlement with Turkey might make available. These funds consisted of 57,919,687.34 gold marks and 43,317,650 gold kroner, which had been lying in the Austro-Hungarian Bank in Vienna, which sums in gold had been deposited by Turkey with Germany and Austria at the Reichsbank in Berlin and the Austro-Hungarian Bank in Vienna respectively as a gold reserve against Turkey's first issue of paper money during the war. (Under the Treaties of Versailles, St. Germain, and Trianon, the gold marks and gold kroner had been placed at the disposal of the principal Allied and Associated Powers.)

The Allied delegates decided on the second alternative, and by Article 58 of the Treaty of Lausanne,

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whilst Turkey, on the one hand, and the contracting Powers, on the other hand, reciprocally renounced all pecuniary claims for losses and damage suffered by their nationals during the late war, Turkey renounced in favour of the other contracting parties (except Greece) any rights she might have in the sums in gold to which reference has been made, and this was followed by a Convention between the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Japan, signed in Paris on November 23, 1923, whereby the contracting Powers agreed to devote jointly to the reparation of the damage suffered by their nationals the sums in gold in question.

The British Government further agreed, by the Convention of November 23, 1923, to transfer to the Commission to be set up by that Convention the £846,100 5 per cent. Turkish Government Treasury Bills which the British Government had purchased from the holders in 1914 as a consequence of the Turkish repudiation of the bills owing to the requisition in August, 1914, by Great Britain of two battleships that were then completing in British yards. (This requisition no doubt gave Turkey a right to compensation, but this was extinguished by Turkey's entry into the War, and by Article 58 of the Treaty of Lausanne Turkey further agreed not to claim from the British Government or its nationals the repayment of the sums paid for the warships, and renounced all claims in the matter.)

Payments under the recommendations of the Royal Commission were commenced immediately after the issue of the Reports, persons belonging to the United Kingdom who had suffered damage in Turkey receiving compensation upon the same footing as other claimants wherever the damage had arisen, but as provision had been made by the Convention of November 23, 1923, for the further compensation of claimants whose damage had arisen in Turkey, payments were made only to those claimants as advances repayable out of any sums which they might receive from the Assessment Commission, which was to be set up under the Convention of November 23, 1923.

Owing to the General Elections in England and the fall of the Poincaré Ministry in France, some delay occurred in the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne, but the Protocols of ratification were eventually duly deposited, and the Treaty came into force as regards Great Britain, Italy, and Japan on August 6, 1924, and as regards France on August 30, 1924

The Commission provided for under Article 2 of the Convention of November 23, 1923, was set up by the appointment on August 6, 1924, of a British Delegate by H.M. Government, which was followed by the appointment of the French delegate on August 13, and of the Italian delegate on the 26th of the same month. The Commission immediately got to work. The gold and Turkish Treasury Bills were transferred to it, the Budget was submitted to the Governments concerned, and approved towards the end of November, and the Commission's procedure was laid down, with the consequence that on December 10, 1924, the Commission was in a position to invite claimants to send particulars of the damage that they had incurred and of the compensation they claimed in respect of it to the delegations of their respective nationalities.

Some criticism had been levelled at the Commission from claimants resident in the Near East because of its decision to make its headquarters in Paris, but the reception of claims has abundantly justified the Commission's decision. It was found, as had been expected, that Constantinople and Smyrna, although the principal centres of damage, were far from being the places of residence of the majority of the claimants, scattered as they had been throughout the world by the events which had occurred between August, 1914, and the coming into being of the Commission in 1924. The British claimants resident in Constantinople and Smyrna represent, in fact, less than 20 per cent. of the total number of claimants, against 40 per cent. resident in the United Kingdom, whilst the balance are scattered throughout the world, some being in the Americas and others in the Far East.

With the setting up of the Commission those British subjects who were excluded from participation in the five million fund distributed by the Royal Commission have now the opportunity of sharing in the funds at the disposal of the new Commission, and not only are all British subjects covered to whatever part of the Empire they belong, but the Convention provides for the compensation of categories of damage which were not included in the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.

Turkey did not become an ally of Germany until November 5, 1914, and, consequently, damage suffered in Turkey before that date could not be attributed to Germany. Again, the fire of Smyrna and much further damage had occurred after the Treaty with Germany had come into force, and could not be charged to her. Under the Convention damage suffered between August 1, 1914, and the coming into force of the Treaty of Lausanne in August, 1924, may be the subject of compensation, and nationals of the British Empire who suffered damage in Turkey or in former Turkish territory or at sea, notwithstanding that they have already received compensation (by way of advances) on the same footing as and at the same time as other British nationals, are now to participate in the distribution of a further fund in competition only with the claimants of the other contracting Powers.

It should, however, be borne in mind that the number of claims is very considerable, and since the funds at the Commission's disposal will not suffice to pay the whole of them in full, each claimant is, quite apart from the question of nationality, virtually in competition with every other claimant, whose rights may be less able to bear investigation. In their own interests, claimants should, therefore, be patient during the interval which must necessarily elapse whilst claims are being examined, and to prevent eventual disappointment, should remember that reparations are not designed to give compensation for the effects of war which have been experienced by the rest of His Majesty's subjects, but only such special damage as their peculiar situation and circumstances enabled the late enemy to inflict by their acts or negligence.

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BOILER TESTS IN INDIA.

It is announced that a very interesting series of boiler tests have been conducted with the "Turbine" forced-draft furnace at the Ganges Jute Mill, Seebpore, near Calcutta, under the superintendence of the chief engineer, Mr. J. D. Campbell.

The conditions in India for steam raising in general are extremely unsatisfactory, most of the available native coal being of a very infeiror character, extremely friable, with a high ash content, and the particularly objectionable feature of great variation in the quality, whilst in the jute industry there is considerable fluctuation in the demand for steam. Consequently there is, for example, considerable difficulty in the way of getting up steam after cleaning out, and the firemen often became exhausted in the hot months of the year.

The coals available at the above mill are various Bengal coals: Alkusa slack, 10,000 B.Th.U. per lb.; Alkusa steam coal, 12,000 B.Th.U.; new Tetruria coal, 8,000-9,000 B.Th.U.; and Damaguria slack, 12,000 B.Th.U., all of which possess a high ash content between 22 per cent. and 32 per cent.

For the tests, a standard 30 ft. by 8 ft. cylindrical "Lancashire" boiler was fitted with the "Turbine" furnace, and a detailed series of trial runs alongside a similar boiler under the ordinary conditions of natural draft, all, of course, on hand firing. The greatest care was taken to ensure similar conditions as regards steam output, both boilers supplying one engine only, whilst all the water evaporated was weighed in tanks, so there was no possibility of mistakes in this direction.

The net result of a long series of tests was that the saving obtained by the use of the "Turbine" furnace varied between 25 per cent. and 45 per cent. of the coal bill, depending upon the fuel used and the conditions, and so highly satisfactory are the results that an order has now been placed to equip all the boilers in the mill, seventeen in number.

INDIA'S TRADE IN DECEMBER.

The trade returns of British India for the month of December, 1924, showed, as compared with the preceding month, an increase in the value of exports with a decrease in imports. The imports of private merchandise totalled Rs. 17,22 lakhs, and showed a decrease of Rs. 5,32 lakhs, as compared with the preceding month. The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures rose, from Rs. 32,44 lakhs in November to Rs. 34,91 lakhs in December, while re-exports decreased by only Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 1,17 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise and treasure, the visible balance of trade was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 14,83 lakhs in December, as compared with Rs. 2,61 lakhs in November and Rs. 15,45 lakhs a year ago. During the nine months ending December, the visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure was Rs. 36,22 lakhs in favour of India, as compared with Rs. 52,43 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The balance of the remittances of funds in December, 1924, was minus Rs. 7,45 lakhs.

PALESTINE GRAPE SYRUP AND GRAPE PASTE.

Grape syrup is a very common substitute for honey in Palestine. Large quantities are prepared in Hebron from second-grade grapes which are not fit for raisin making (says Mr. A. Grasovsky in an article in the *Commercial Bulletin* of Palestine). The grapes are placed in especially constructed culverts in the rock, and are pressed with hands and feet. The crushed mass is put in sacks, which are again pressed or beaten with stones. The juice is then collected and filtered through a cloth. It is then boiled in large copper tanks, and subsequently allowed to cool. A solution of yellow soil is mixed with the cool juice, and settles down, taking with it all the impurities. (This soil is known as "Houwar," and is found in the hills of Hebron.) The clear juice is decanted in the boiler, and is boiled down until it thickens up to the required consistency.

In manufacturing grape paste or "Malban" only good grapes are used. The grapes are pressed, and the juice is collected and filtered as described above for the making of grape syrup. The clear juice is then boiled, and as it warms about 1 rotl of semolina is mixed with every 16 rotls of juice. The mass is stirred all the time, and when it reaches the required consistency shelled seeds of "Pinus halepensis" and "Pinus pinea" are mixed with the paste. The mass is then poured on to white sheets, and is well flattened up with boards to a given thickness. The paste dries in about three days according to the weather conditions and the thickness of the slab. It then takes the form of a greyish leather-like substance mottled with pine seeds. The slab is then folded up and sold on the local market at a good price. The "Malban" is considered a great delicacy, and is especially used at festivals. Travellers going on long journeys usually take some Malban with them, and use it as a food of great nutritive value.

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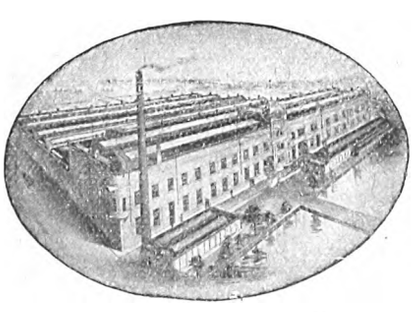
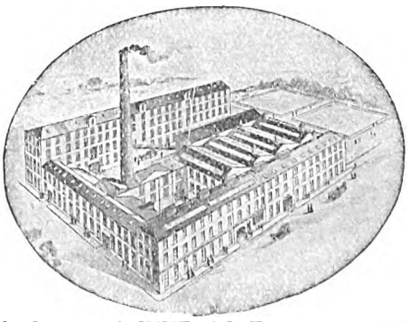
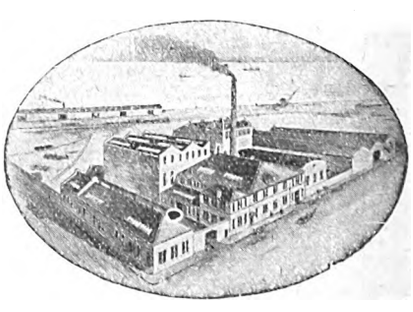

Shippers of all classes of JUTE, LINEN and COTTON FABRICS.
Also of CALCUTTA SACKS.

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Near East Markets.

BULGARIA'S TOBACCO STOCKS.

The Export of Maize.

The Bulgarska Banka in its current report states :—

The production of tobacco in Bulgaria during the current year amounts to about 42,000,000 kgs., as compared with 52,000,000 kgs. for the past year. This marked decrease in production is due to the fact that on account of the low prices realised for the past harvest the cultivators have reduced the area devoted to the crop. At present Bulgaria has available for export not more than 30 to 40 million kgs., or about 1 per cent. of the world production. That small quantity cannot be sold at a remunerative price unless the exporters follow carefully the fluctuations in prices and know how to profit by the favourable moment. A country which only produces 1 per cent. of the world production cannot impose its prices on the markets, despite the high quality of the tobaccos, much of which is quite up to the standard of the best Greek tobaccos, thanks to the truly excellent conditions as regards soil and climate which Bulgaria offers for the cultivation of tobaccos of the best quality.

From information provided by the municipalities, merchants, and others, it appears that after the deduction of internal consumption Bulgaria will be able to export this year about 25,000 wagons of maize. The transport of this product by rail will amount monthly to 1,500 to 2,000 wagons, which enables one to anticipate an export of maize equal to 4,000 wagons in the two following months. The meeting called by the Minister of Commerce to examine the question of the prohibition of the export of maize from Bulgaria has decided that the regulation of the export of maize would be altogether useless and would only disturb the market, and lead the peasants to conceal the product under the influence of panic, which would result in raising the prices of maize in Bulgaria. The export of this product will be more considerable in April, when the Danube will be open to navigation. But it is to be foreseen that then the peasants will flood the market not only with maize, but also with wheat, especially in view of the favourable outlook for the harvest of 1925.

GOOD DEMAND FOR FURS.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association (Inc.) states that the London winter fur auctions attracted a very large attendance of buyers, chiefly from the home trade and the Continent. Representatives of the American trade were fewer than usual. Owing in part to the unusually mild weather generally experienced, and in part to the trend of fashion, the demand at these sales was strongest for the staple articles, which fully maintained their values and in many cases advanced, whilst for the choicer kinds it was hardly equal to the supply, and consequently values of some few of the fine furs have become a trifle easier. Competition on the whole was, however, very good, and large quantities of furs were sold. There is no doubt a more confident feeling in trade circles generally. The hope of some reduction in taxation and the more settled condition of international affairs should in themselves help to foster a revival of business. The comparison of prices is with those of October-November last : — American badger, a poor collection; values remain unaltered; Russian badger, unaltered; black bear, declined 25 per cent., neglected; brown bear, unaltered; grizzly bear, declined 25 per cent.; white bear, full last prices; beaver, advanced 5 per cent., taken principally for America; civet cat, quantity too small for comparison; chinchilla, quantity too small for comparison; American and Russian ermine, advanced 25 per cent., mainly bought for America; fisher, declined 20 per cent.; fitch, unaltered; blue fox, very limited demand, declined 30 per cent.; cross fox, slightly easier; grey fox, sold at firm prices; red fox, the best sections advanced slightly, the lower grades being somewhat easier; silver fox, the best skins sold at full October prices, the lower grades averaged about 20 per cent. lower; white fox, unaltered; South American fox, declined 10 per cent.; white hare, a poor offering, values very firm; kolinsky, good grades sold at full values, lower sorts slightly easier; Persian lamb, very few sold at slightly easier prices; broadtail lamb, mostly unsold, limits being too high; leopard, unchanged to slightly higher; lynx, American declined 15 per cent., Russian unaltered; American marten, declined 12½ per cent.; Baum marten, slightly lower; Stone marten, unaltered; mink, firm at October prices; mole, a poor collection, sold at somewhat easier rates; monkey, unaltered; black musquash, mostly unsold on account of high limits; brown musquash, declined 15 per cent.; southern musquash, advanced 25 per cent.; nutria, unaltered; American opossum, advanced 15 per cent., a good collection; otter, unaltered; raccoon, advanced 25 per cent.; Russian sable, full October prices; skunk, black and short striped advanced 15 per cent., long striped advanced 20 per cent., whites advanced 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., a good collection; squirrel, sold well at full prices; wolf, declined 10 per cent.; wolverine, declined 10 per cent.; fur seals, unaltered.

CROP PROSPECTS IN TUNISIA.

H.M. Consul-General at Tunis (Mr. J. M. MacLeod, C.M.G.) reports that grave fears are expressed locally as to the probable failure of the crops in Tunisia this year because of the lack of rain. Although abundant rain fell last winter, the intense heat during May very largely destroyed the crops in the south of Tunisia, and considerable quantities of wheat and maize had to be imported to feed the population. As Tunisia depends so much on agriculture, another failure of the crops would naturally be very disastrous for the country.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	291-300½
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	292-297
Berlin	Marks to £	20 43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.73-24.78
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$ 1s. 6$\frac{1}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94 40-94.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25. 2½	970-1,000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	344-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$-1s. 6$\frac{1}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	915-925
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 75⅛-4.76⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	91.20-91.80
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	160 160½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116 15-116.25
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	655-665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	335-340,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25 22½	24.65-24 85

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW B.I. STEAMER.

The successful trial trip is announced of the fine passenger and cargo steamer Santhia, which has been built by Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., at their Neptune Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to the order of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., London.

The vessel is built of steel, being 451 ft. in length by 57 ft. 9 in. broad by 36 ft. 6 in. depth moulded, and will carry a d.w. of 9,500 tons on a draft of 27 ft. Amidships there is well-furnished accommodation for twenty-four first-class passengers, including a large dining saloon on the bridge deck, which is tastefully panelled in white and gold, with mahogany furniture. The staterooms for the first-class passengers are finished in white enamel and furnished in mahogany.

The second-class passengers, twenty-four in number, are on the same decks. Their rooms include a dining saloon finished in white enamel, with entrance and lounge in grey, the furniture in all cases being of mahogany. The staterooms for these passengers are finished in white enamel, with mahogany furniture. Arrangements can be made for carrying about 3,000 native passengers in part of the upper deck and 'tween decks.

The steamer is propelled by twin-screws driven by triple expansion engines, which, with the boilers, have also been constructed at the Neptune Works of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., and on the trial trip they worked without the slightest hitch, driving the vessel at a speed of 14 knots. Electric light is fitted throughout, and there is also a wireless installation and refrigerating machinery.

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, March 6). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Dumana for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 27); s.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 2).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, February 28).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 28); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 7); s.s. Aviemore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 28); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, March 6); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, March 4).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Motor Launch.—The Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for a motor launch. March 16. (D.O.T.)

Electrical Fittings.—The Director, Equipment and Finance Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and upkeep of the electrical fittings required for the various offices of the Ministry in 1925-26.—March 16.

Metals.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of metals required during the financial year 1925-1926. March 23.

Lubricating Oils.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,310 metrical tons of mineral lubricating oils. March 25.

Nitrate of Soda, etc.—The Minister of Agriculture, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of different varieties of manure and E. bags required by the Ministry, viz.:—21,000 tons nitrate of soda, 2,000 tons nitrate of lime, 1,000 tons sulphate of ammonia, 3,000 tons superphosphate of lime, 600 bales of E. bags containing 500 pieces each. May 2.

Roumania.

Galvanised Iron Wire Cable.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of 200 kilogs of galvanised iron wire cable for counterweights of warning signals; 645 kilogs of galvanised iron wire cable for counterweights of ringing signals.—March 17. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Passenger Coaches and Goods Trucks.—The Direction Generale des Chemins de Fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of six passenger coaches and six goods trucks. April 1. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Threshing Machines, etc.—H.M. Consul-General at Salonika (Mr. F. E. Crow, C.M.G.) reports that he has been approached by an official of the Greek Refugee Colonisation Department with regard to obtaining quotations from British manufacturers for threshing machines, straw cutters, pressers, reaping machines, reapers and binders. (D.O.T.)

The London offices of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd., are now at 48, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

Mr. R. Langford James, of James Finlay and Co., has joined the Board of Directors of the National Bank of India.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CIRCASSIA, Feb. 27. *CASTALIA, April 1.
*OLYMPIA, March 13. *SCINDIA, April 28.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

National Insurance Companies.

"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Variable.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended February 12 state :— Since our last report the futures market has been very erratic for Sakel and quiet but firm for Uppers. The net changes on the week are the following :— Sakellaridis : $2.95 up for March, $3.20 up for May, $2.85 up for July, $1.75 up for November, $1.65 up for January, 1926. Ashmouni : $0.35 up for February, $0.35 up for April, $0.35 up for June, $0.75 up for October. We have had during the past week most exciting markets for Sakel, differences of three to four dollars being registered during the same session; March to-day touched $71.10, but the rise induced profit-taking on a large scale, and prices reacted down to $67.30; at the close the market recovered somewhat, but the tendency remains very uncertain. The Uppers market has been firm but with very little doing. The steady rise of the New York market and the decision of the Master Spinners' Federation to reduce the working hours of the American section has somewhat strengthened the position of Uppers. That large quantities of cotton have been held back in Upper Egypt this season is demonstrated by the abnormally high proportion of Uppers in the daily arrivals in Alexandria during the last few weeks. At the second February tender 2,000 krs. dockets were issued. October Ashmouni and November Sakel have appreciated somewhat in sympathy with the rise of old crops and owing to some business having been concluded with spinners for new crop shipments. The week's receipts amount to 84,922 krs., against exports 132,757 krs.; the stock stands at 1,749,141 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of small markets at Minet-el-Bassal, due to a reduced demand from abroad. Sales amount to about 14,500 bales, of which we estimate 5,700 bales Sakellaridis, 6,000 bales Uppers, 2,100 bales Zagora, 200 bales Pilion, 100 bales Brown, and 400 bales White.

Sakellaridis.—All qualities have been dealt in, but on a very limited scale. Spot premiums and discounts are without change for Fully Good Fair/Good and Good, somewhat cheaper for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair, and much cheaper for the lower grades. Prices generally are very irregular, due to the rapid and wide fluctuations in the Sakel contract market.

Ashmouni and Zagora have been in fair request. Spot premiums and discounts are unchanged for Fully Good Fair, rather dearer for Good and higher grades, and a little easier for the other qualities.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums and discounts are unchanged for the Good qualities and rather easier for the lower styles.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot premiums and discounts have eased somewhat except for Good, which is unchanged.

White has met with a good inquiry, and an improved business has been done. Spot premiums are generally dearer.

Crop 1925.—An extensive survey of the quantity still remaining in the interior makes us expect that the total arrivals in Alexandria for the current season will amount to 7 to 7¼ million kantars. It is very difficult to give an accurate figure owing to the reluctance of the natives to declare correctly the quantities they hold in their warehouses in the small villages.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Inquiry on Good Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 18 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A good inquiry has again been in evidence and a fair business has resulted. Violent fluctuations have been taking place in futures, and reactions have naturally been felt in the spot market, particularly with reference to Sakel cotton, which this week has been the centre of attraction. Spinners and speculators have both bought with more confidence than has been seen for many weeks past, and yesterday, when the setback in futures had reached the lowest (about 31.00d. for March), quite a lot of trade fixing became noticeable. The impression conveyed is that spinners are gradually becoming more reconciled to the shortage of Sakel and the consequent high prices ruling.

There is no doubt that this shortage is being felt more and more each week, in spite of the fact that the majority of spinners have cut down their Sakel consumption to the irreducible minimum. Grades from Fair to Good have been chiefly in request. For the quality round about Fair the market is very irregular, and there is a tendency on the part of holders to dispose of their cotton at what appears to be easy prices. For cotton about Good Fair, and upwards to Good, there is every indication that the basis is likely to harden considerably. The finer cotton has not attracted so much attention, although as much as 40.50d. was paid on one occasion.

Uppers have been rather quieter, but, considering all things, this cotton has maintained its position extraordinarily well. Really good staple lots are now hard to find. There has been a fair demand for Pilion, but business has not resulted on anything like an extensive scale. Prices vary from about 23.00d. to 25.50d. White and Brown cotton have been in poor request. In Sudan cotton there has been little business doing; one lot of last year's Tokar Sakel (second quality) changed hands at 37.00d., and considerable interest has been displayed by spinners in the first arrivals of White Sudan cotton, a small parcel of which was sold to-day at about 600 on (American March delivery). C.i.f. business has been comparatively quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 13th inst. were returned as 11,778 bales. Estimated sales 2,700 bales Egyptians and 110 Sudan. Quotations of Sakel show a decline of 160 to 185 points; those of Upper are 35 points lower, and those of Brown 60 lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 34.30d.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for January amounted to 460 tons.

Mr. A. G. M. Dickson has been elected to a seat on the Board of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt (London Committee).

Raw silk spun in Syria and the Lebanon, destined for foreign countries, has been exempted from the export duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem*.

British Burmah Petroleum.—A cable received by the British Burmah Petroleum Company reports that the production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for January amounted to 59,703 barrels.

A meeting of the Obligation and Certificate holders of the Constantinople Telephone Company will be held at Winchester House, on March 4 to consider a resolution that the interest on the 6 per cent. Obligation bonds and 5 per cent. Certificates, due January 1, 1925, and the payments due up to and including January 1, 1927, be postponed until January 1, 1928. The overdue coupons will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The directors further propose to raise additional capital ranking before the Obligations and Certificates.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

Complete Banking Facilities for the Near East.

The Only British Bank in Greece.

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Please forward THE NEAR EAST weekly for months.

Remittance enclosed.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES Post Free: U.K., £1 7s. 6d. per annum; 14s. 6d. for 6 months. ABROAD, £1 10s. per annum; 15s. 6d. for 6 months.

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IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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Regular Services between

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For further particulars please apply to the Roumanian State Maritime Service, Bucharest, or any of their agencies.

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Capital 24 millions Leva.
Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

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COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE

(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London :

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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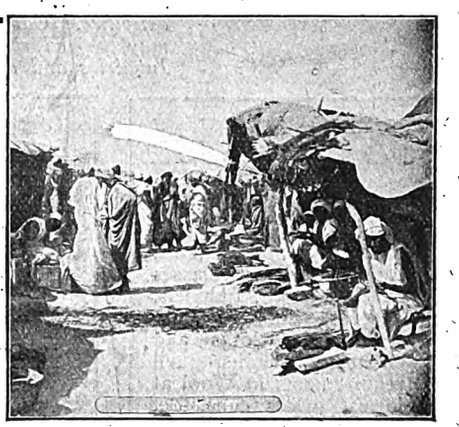

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 721—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

The controversy over the Œcumenical Patriarchate has entered upon a more satisfactory phase. There is no longer any attempt to represent the expulsion of Mgr. Constantine VI. from Constantinople, on the ground that he was an "exchangeable" Greek, and had been elected despite the warning of the Turkish authorities, as a challenge to Christianity. It is now seen in its proper proportions, as a small-minded quarrel. The Turkish warning had been regarded by the Holy Synod as bluff, and the Turks, as soon as their supposed bluff was called, unceremoniously bundled the Patriarch out of Turkey. After this unnecessary trial of strength both parties are settling down to a more reasonable frame of mind, having realised that neither has benefited from the quarrel. The Holy Synod has lost Mgr. Constantine as Patriarch when it might have retained him if it had set about his election in the right way; the Turks have had the empty satisfaction of showing that they do not intend to stand any nonsense from the Greeks in their midst. A solution of the *contretemps* seemed to have been found in the proposal that the Greeks should elect a new Patriarch, and the Turks should guarantee the personnel of the Phanar exemption from exchangeability. Delay on the part of the Synod to close with this offer has allowed the Turks to interpose a further condition that Greece must withdraw her application to the League of Nations, and let the matter be settled by direct negotiation with Turkey. It is to be feared that the dispute will be prolonged by the attitude of the Greek Government, which now declares that it has nothing to do with negotiations between the Phanar and the Turkish Government, but is concerned in what it regards as an infringement of the Lausanne Treaty. This may be, strictly speaking, correct, but it will be easy for the Turks to retort that, if Greece negotiated on behalf of the Phanar at Lausanne, she must accept responsibility now; and, further, that there would be no point in a friendly settlement on the basis of a new election if the whole question is to be reopened by the League of Nations.

Parties in Yugoslavia.

In commenting last week on the Croat version of the recent elections in Yugoslavia that our Correspondent had sent in order that both sides of a controversy might be represented, we expressed the hope that the Serbian point of view might also be given. Our Yugoslav letter this week sets out to analyse the political situation from the detached point of view of a foreigner, when the dust and heat of a strenuously contested election have had time to subside and it will be seen that the verdict does not endorse altogether the Croat view. Our Correspondent is inclined to justify the internment of M. Raditch and some of his colleagues over the election, if only in the cause of order, and does not consider that the action materially affected the results of the polling. In the case of countries where denunciation of rivals by political parties has no recognised limits there is always the danger that the wildest statements will be accepted abroad in their literal significance. There are many friends of Yugoslavia in Great Britain who do not like to think of the country's being in the hands of people who, if they were as black as they are painted, could not be regarded as the Government that the country deserves. The attempt to dictate to the Yugoslavs in regard to the men whom they ought to place at the head of affairs can only be a waste of time. What is of chief importance is that Yugoslavia should achieve political stability in one form or another, in order that greater confidence may be felt abroad in the country's economic future. Whether political stability is to be attained by "rendering more stringent such laws as have been too lax," as would seem to be the Government's plan, remains to be seen. In view of the peculiar conditions of the Triune Kingdom it might be thought that the first desideratum was a friendly agreement with the Opposition regarding measures destined to promote the material well-being of Yugoslavia rather than partisan legislation to strengthen the position of the political group in power.

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Communist Activities.

Further measures against Communists have been taken in Bulgaria, and the Government is reported to have obtained useful evidence of the way in which Communist activities have been carried on in the country in the past. There can be little doubt that foreign money has played an important part in the manufacture of Communists in Bulgaria among a population which has little or nothing in common with Communist principles. Just as political parties in any Balkan country never hesitate to credit their opponents with treasonable designs, so those who have a more serious grudge against the party in power are prepared to stop at nothing which may enable them to pay off old scores. It is, therefore, by no means improbable that the Bulgarian Government has been up against perfectly loyal Bulgarians in the rôle of outlaws, using Soviet money and weapons forwarded by other Bulgarians who have held responsible positions, but are now in exile. Much good may come out of the evil if it brings the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Governments together in a joint and conscientious attempt to eliminate the various kinds of incident that keep the relations of the two countries in a state of constant friction. Bulgaria accuses Yugoslavia of harbouring political refugees who are in league with the Communists in her midst; Yugoslavia accuses Bulgaria of sheltering Macedonians whose sole aim it is to stir up trouble in Southern Serbia; both complain of Vienna as a hatching ground for intrigues in their respective countries. The acid test of the sincerity of any understanding between the two countries should be a resolve on the part of each not to offer refuge within its territory to prominent political exiles from the other. Not that the right of asylum should be withheld from Balkan political refugees, whose numbers are an indication of the need for such asylum, but that it should be sought at a greater distance from the native country, in order to reduce the temptation to further personal interests at the expense of international relations.

Lord Balfour's Visit to Palestine.

Lord Balfour's projected visit to Palestine has brought to an untimely end the period of uneventful history which, in the country's interests, ought to have been indefinitely prolonged. Palestine is capable of making useful headway when it is not too much in the limelight; but for the next month or so it will be forcibly projected into that undesirable position. The change of plans that might have been welcomed would now appear almost unfortunate, in the light of the insolent message that the Arab Executive has telegraphed to Lord Balfour. This document sets out the Executive's programme for the visit. On the day of arrival all work is to be stopped and gatherings are to be held in places of worship for protest and prayer. Representatives of Arab bodies, recognised or unrecognised, and other national bodies and notables are to refrain from meeting Lord Balfour publicly or privately. The authorities responsible for the Holy Places and national institutions are to withhold leave of access. Arabic papers will appear with black borders. It will be of interest to see whether the Executive's fiat will be carried into effect. An excellent opportunity is offered to the Arab organisations which have been started in opposition to the Executive's shortsighted policy to show that there is some political sense among the Arabs. The Declaration was a statement of policy by the British Government. Lord Balfour visits Palestine as a private individual, actuated by personal regard for the high mission that it is given to Jewish enterprise in Palestine to fulfil. To make the visit an occasion for public demonstrations of protest will hurt no one but the Arabs themselves, for it will serve to emphasise their unfitness for the serious business of administrative responsibility.

Reports, Wise and Otherwise.

A telegraphic agency in Palestine which, in the language of the film industry, "features" its imagination almost as often as its information, brought a force of 10,000 Wahhabis, under the Sultan Ibn Saud himself, into Transjordan last week, and, after killing "over a thousand of the inhabitants of the frontier zone," left the Wahhabis marching on to Amman. Unfortunately, the agency's imagination did not "feature" the Royal Air Force in Palestine or the British Government's explicit notification to the Sultan of Nejd that it would not remain indifferent to any act of aggression on Transjordan or Iraq. No such invasion as reported took place; but a short time previously a wandering body of Wahhabis had reached the borderland of Transjordan without doing any serious damage before they were driven off. A more plausible report last week was that which appeared in the *Morning Post* to the effect that Lord Allenby had resigned his position as High Commissioner. This particular statement has been officially contradicted, but there can be little doubt that, if persisted in long enough this year, will one day be proved true. The soldier in Lord Allenby dominates the statesman, and it is well known to have been his desire for some time that, as soon as the field is clear for the latter alone, he should be allowed to withdraw. A victory for the anti-Zaghloulists at the elections, if substantial enough, would make the presence of a soldier-statesman at Cairo less necessary, and Lord Allenby might well feel justified in pressing his point, as no difficulty arises in regard to a suitable successor.

INDIA.

The South African Question.

The old difficulties between India and South Africa have unfortunately again become acute. The last mail brought the full report of the Viceroy's reply to a deputation which had pressed the subject on his attention, a deputation of Hindus and Moslems, Christians, Sikhs, and Parsees, which represented no mere political movement, but the very essence of India, both provinces and States. Lord Reading dealt mainly with the Natal Ordinance, which has put a stop to the admission of Indians to the municipal electorate, but, while that measure has produced a serious reaction in India, it is a small matter compared with the general legislation now on the anvil, which links Asiatics with native Africans in a single "colour-bar," and excludes them from all responsible employment in mines and factories. The local conditions which may be held to justify such a measure lie outside our purview, but, looking at it from the Indian standpoint, we are bound to say that no more hopeful method of driving educated and semi-educated India frantic could have been devised than to draw a definite economic line having "whites" on one side and Africans and Asiatics on the other.

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The Indian Case.

To judge from the cabled reports, the Indian case was put very fairly by General Smuts, whose attitude on some former occasions has made him an intensely unpopular figure in India. The matter is one of sentiment, but sentiments are among the hardest facts in politics, and this particular sentiment is worthy of respect, because it is a part of the growth of the healthy national feeling which is essential to India's progress in the world. Reasonable Indians admit the social necessity of certain adjustments in practice, and these adjustments can be effected where there is good will on both sides. The way to render them impossible is to start by imposing on one side a formal stigma of inferiority, and this is the course chosen by the South African Government. As General Smuts said, only a few Asiatics are directly affected, but the inclusion of their name in the Bill will win for South Africa the hatred of Asia as a whole. Whether that is worth doing is primarily a question for South Africa, which has considerable interests in Asiatic markets, particularly in the sale of coal, diamonds, and gold, but the inevitable reaction in India is a matter to which the British Empire cannot be indifferent.

The Indian Legislature.

There are still no very definite signs of anything in particular crystallising out of that very fluid body, the Legislative Assembly. The Independent and Extremist groups, which suppose themselves to be a *bloc*, have again been telling a certain amount of truth about each other, and it does not seem possible to forecast whether they will be in the same lobby or not in any specified division. We take it that members of the former group mean well in a general way, but cannot yet shake off the old habit of opposing the Government, while the Extremists mean to oppose the Government, but find the process increasingly distasteful as its results become more and more apparent. Regarded as education in practical politics, we think the proceedings are by no means discouraging, and we notice that so good an authority as Mr. Philip Kerr declared recently that India had made an excellent start on the road before her, but we confess to a good deal of sympathy with the men who have to keep the administrative machine running while the lessons are in progress. Whatever highbrows and mugwumps may say, a reasonable party system is a very great practical convenience.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Walsall By-Election.

Nothing could better exemplify the stability—stagnancy, if you will—which our national politics have attained than the result of the by-election at Walsall last week. There was very little difference in the number of votes cast respectively for the Conservative, the Liberal, and the Labour candidates, even though the Liberals had so strong a man as Dr. Macnamara to relieve them of the unfortunate reputation they have won for losing elections.

It seems obvious that either the country is tired of politics or that, in suspending its judgment on Governmental action, it has decided to maintain the *status quo*. The Government has not yet had time to gain either respect or hatred, and it is quite possible, of course, that it will succeed in doing neither.

The Political Levy.

One pitfall, however, it has already avoided: I refer to the one that Mr. Macquisten, in his Bill for the regulating of trade union levies for political purposes, had digged for it. When this Bill comes up for its second reading this week the Government will oppose it. And, although this decision of the Cabinet has bitterly disappointed the Die-Hard section of the Tory Party, there is much wisdom in it.

It is not a question of cowardice, this refusal of the Government to support a measure which in effect aims a blow at the Socialist Party; it is the result of the exercise of plain common sense. Why should Conservatives, except the interfering meddlers, so burden themselves with the rights of trade unionists as to suppose that they alone (and not the partly trade unionist administration which preceded them) really understand the workingman's political interests? Possibly, of course, these Die-Hards imagine that the men whom they would rescue from the obligation to contribute to the union's political fighting funds are really, if they were allowed a free vote, Tories; but that is an unprovable assumption, and to stir up a class war merely for the sake of testing its accuracy is not the kind of inquisition in which Mr. Baldwin and his associates (or most of them) are choosing at this moment to indulge.

The Bank Rate.

Financial markets fluttered considerably towards the end of last week, when it was announced that the Bank Rate would be advanced to 5 per cent. The raising of the New York Bank rate had what is called a devastating effect on gilt-edged securities, and the general atmosphere on the Stock Exchange appeared to be one of rather gloomy apprehension. However, things seem quickly to be righting themselves, and there will be little real anxiety so long as the American exchange remains in its comparatively firm position.

The enormous interest taken in this affair contrasts significantly with that taken in the matter of the Political Levy; the fact of our governance by the financiers rather than by the politicians is becoming increasingly realised.

Ireland's Real Masters.

There will perhaps always be discussion on who are the real masters of Ireland. It is commonly said in England that it is a priest-ridden and a priest-ruled country; in Ireland that the English still, in fact, rule the island; and it is even said in some parts now that Irishmen rule Ireland.

Last week, however, we were regaled with yet another version. It appears that Mr. de Valera has gathered to himself one Father O'Flanagan, who has come out with a startling denunciation of the bishops of Ireland. No words can, in fact, be too bad for the bishops, who are in league with the English, and who muzzle Republican priests. "We suffer," continued this impetuous curate, in his tilt at the mitre, "we suffer from the accusation that we are a priest-ridden people; we are a bishop-ridden people." And it was with the further charm of novelty that we read that Irishmen "tolerate too much ecclesiastical influence in their secular affairs," and that a return was desirable to the policy of O'Connell, who said: "We take our religion from Rome and our politics from home."

This outburst is, of course, the expression of the sentiment of but one man, but there are grounds for believing that the ecclesiastics' hold upon the political life of Ireland is loosening. This fact—if it be a fact—would be more welcomed in England if it implied a decrease in the hatred of England; unfortunately, however, it seems to imply an intensifying of it. It would, indeed, be a strange

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turn of the wheel if the Church in Ireland were to prove the chief bulwark of England's position there.

Ireland and the Kinema.

In one or two points, however, Ireland can give points to this country. There can be no question that the Free State Film Appeal Board is infinitely superior to anything we have here. The defence of the Irish attitude towards the films that are to be allowed into Ireland, as outlined a few days ago by Senator Oliver St. John Gogarty, was admirable. Not for Ireland are to be "outrageous adventures, murders, false sentiments, and the grasping gesticulations and contortions supposed by their exotic creators to be the inseparable accompaniment of lovemaking in every country."

This is extremely good. But better followed. In England people seem impotent against the American and cosmopolitan financiers of films, but this is how the Irishman "gets next to" his man, the film-trader. "Let us tell them once for all that we will stand none of their dictation. . . . The kinema should be under the control and at the service of the Board of Education." And, as showing how far less materialistic Ireland is than England, it is suggested that a tariff be imposed on foreign kinemas.

Wembley, 1925.

One never really doubted, but one is, all the same, glad to have positive assurance that the British Empire Exhibition is to be held again this year. The House of Commons has approved in Committee the Government's proposal to guarantee a further sum of £500,000 for the Exhibition, which is to be opened, I believe, in the first week in May. There was a debate, it is true, over this granting; but those who opposed it could offer no argument but that of pounds, shillings, and pence. You cannot, however, reduce an idea by such an argument, and Wembley is in essence an Imperial idea. Our provincials, who last year provided 70 per cent. of the Exhibition's visitors, must by this time almost all be Imperialists; and the summer of 1925 will surely have to be at its worst to inhibit a similar conversion of Londoners. I have no means of forecasting whether in 1925 the Exhibition will be a success, but, in any case, to expect a return so soon from so mighty an undertaking seems to me a shortsighted policy.

Imperial Reflections.

It was after reading about this year's Exhibition, staged in what has been described as "the greatest Imperial city of all time," that one turned to read Dean Inge's weekly lucubrations, or illuminations, or lamentations, in the *Morning Post*. He was studying the fate of Rome and examining its decline. It was very well done, but one always feels that the Dean does these things with an idea at the back of his mind that a disease is upon our own modern civilisation.

Has the decay to which our Empire is, in the course of things, ultimately doomed, yet started? To those who look inwards, who see the precarious nature of the Mother Country's existence, the temper of her people, the decline of their religion, and so on, it may appear as if degeneration had set in; but to those who look outward, who see the strength and the direction of the colonies, the desire still to commit ourselves to foreign governance, the ideals of our lonely, distant governors, all will seem well.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is reported that M. Pierre Plamenatz, who was formerly Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been arrested by the Yugoslav authorities while on a visit to his mother at Vir Pazar.

The Queen of Bulgaria arrived last week in Belgrade on a visit to her daughter, the Queen of Yugoslavia.

Nine persons, mostly of the student class, of those detained in connection with the Stack inquiry, were released in Egypt on February 24.

Thirty persons have lost their lives and 38 have been injured in a fire which broke out on February 22 at Rahmania, a village of Behera province in the Delta.

The Yugoslav-Hungarian negotiations in regard to matters left over in the agreement of last summer have resulted in the conclusion of a transit and tariff agreement satisfactory to both sides.

Mahmud Effendi Nekrashi, who was Under-Secretary of State for the Interior at the time of the murder of Sir Lee Stack at Cairo, and was one of the first to be arrested, was released on February 23.

A Greek naval mission, consisting of 113 officers and men, arrived at Marseilles on February 26 from the Piræus en route for England, where they will take over the Greek destroyers which are being refitted.

The Reparations Commission will ask Roumania to reply to the German argument that Roumania can only be indemnified out of the Dawes annuities for the banknotes which Germany issued in Roumania during the occupation.

Lord Willingdon has accepted an invitation of the Canadian National Council of Education to undertake a speech-making tour in all parts of the Dominion, and will leave for Canada on April 9. He will devote most of his addresses to Indian problems.

Mrs. W. B. Leeds gave birth to a daughter in New York on February 24. Mrs. Leeds, who was formerly known as Princess Xenia, is the daughter of Princess Marie of Greece (Mme. Joannides), and her husband is the son of the late Princess Christopher of Greece.

The fifth annual dinner of the Institution of Engineers in India was held in Delhi on February 25. Sir Charles Innes, member for Railways in the Indian Government, was present and complimented the institution on its progress and its membership, which is expected soon to reach 1,000.

Negotiations between Greece and Yugoslavia, which were suspended recently in consequence of the illness of M. Caclamanos, have been resumed. It is hoped that they will be sufficiently advanced to enable M. Gavrilovitch to return to Belgrade before March 10, shortly after which the negotiations will be continued in the Yugoslav capital.

Captain F. Kingdon Ward and Lord Cawdor, who have been on a botanical expedition in Tibet since March, 1924, have returned to Calcutta, after a most successful year. More than a thousand specimens were secured, as well as 300 seeds, mainly belonging to the rhododendron, primula, and poppy classes, which they propose to distribute to the Botanical Garden in Kew, Edinburgh, and London.

The body of Major Sanatescu, of the Roumanian Air Force, who was killed while flying near Coventry two weeks ago, was on February 25 taken to Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, where a funeral service was held. Madame Sanatescu (widow), the director of the Roumanian Air Force, a representative of the Roumanian Delegation in London, and members of the British Air Force were present. Afterwards the body left en route for Roumania.

Sir William Earnshaw Cooper, C.I.E., of Castle Carey, Guernsey, and of Cawnpore, India, for many years chairman of Messrs. Cooper Allen and Co., manufacturers, of Cawnpore, for seven years a member of the United Provinces Legislature, and a former President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, who died on July 2, aged 81, left estate of the gross value of £55,085, with net personalty £50,163. Among other bequests he left:—30,000 rupees to the Ramsay Hospital at Maini Tal, United Provinces, India, for the maintenance of the Cooper Ward for poor and non-paying patients; and 10,000 rupees to the Summer Home for soldiers' children at Mussouri, United Provinces; 10,000 rupees to the Allahabad Free School and Orphanage.

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The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.

[*On February 19 we published a letter from Croatia which set out to describe the recent elections in Yugoslavia before party passions had had time to die down. In the following letter, by our Correspondent in Yugoslavia, and written from Liubliana, an attempt is made to explain the position as it now is.*—Ed.]

Liubliana, February 26.

After the General Election.

The political storm which raged before and up to the General Election has subsided, and, as is usual on these occasions, most of the savage threats hurled from either side at the other, have by this time died away, leaving scarcely an echo.

Within a short time the new Parliament will assemble and get to work on some most important legislative measures. Among the first in order to be dealt with stand the law regulating election procedure and the Press Law.

A Constitution on modern lines, with an Electoral Law to match, drawn up on the model of up-to-date but old-established States, in which each citizen takes a proper pride in his native land, might easily prove disastrous to Yugoslavia, a State in which the various elements have not yet found their level in regard to each other. Yugoslavia, as she stands at present, consists of a nucleus of Serbs of Serbia—a nation that has already "found itself"—and of their brother nations which belong to them geographically no less than nationally, but who, owing to their unfortunate political past under alien rule and influence, have been *in part* set against their Serbian brothers, and cannot claim overmuch credit for their own liberation either. Meantime the Serbs and such of the new citizens of the State as under Austria resented their national thraldom, and therefore helped to bring about the union—some as volunteers in the Allied ranks (all honour to these heroes, about whom even now far too little is known to the world at large), and some in the fields of politics and diplomacy, whereas others were content to help by encouraging and countenancing these efforts—indulged in far too rosy illusions, and failed to realise that such an upheaval as the War entails an aftermath of internal troubles even in old and stable States, let alone in a State that has constituted itself in haste in the midst of the general disorganisation.

Nevertheless, Yugoslavia gave herself a Constitution on modern lines, and took the risk of its effects on the recently liberated. Soon the presence of "defeatist" elements made itself felt in Parliament, hampering the work of consolidation. First, there was trouble with the Communists, then with the Raditch Party, and so on. Last autumn it came to this, that the Crown deemed it the wisest course to order a new General Election, entrusting the charge of it to the most constitutional ("State-constructive" is the accepted expression here) of the Parliamentary groups, viz., that which stands for centralism—the only form of government suitable in the case of such small State units as, *e.g.*, the Slovenes with their one million, for whom some would claim Home Rule.

The group represented by M. Pashitch (the Radicals), M. Pribitchevitch (Independent Democrats), and Dr. Tseryav (National Democrats), which mustered 118 mandates in the last Skupshtina, combined to form the National *Bloc*, and carried out the General Election, at which it strove to obtain a working majority, *i.e.*, a majority upon which it could rely, and which would be independent of the support of small and fickle factions, and the concessions for which such allies would bargain.

It goes without saying that the Opposition put up a determined and embittered fight. Its weakness was that it consisted of a large number of parties representing divergent aims and principles, with no common bond except the attitude of opposition to the Government group.

Truth About the "Terror."

Much has been said and written about the terrorist methods employed by the Government incidentally to the election. Much of this is rank misrepresentation. The internment of M. Raditch and his chief lieutenants was a perfectly intelligible step, and it would have been suicidal on the part of any Government in charge of the election to do anything else, because the action of these men, once the active champions of the Central Powers, and now the apologists of the old régime, exceeded all decent limits. Their dealings with Russia and various other factors compelled the authorities to prevent further danger to the State and its citizens from that quarter.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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That was the worst of what the Opposition could call terror. The voting urns of the Raditch Party were left undisturbed. The censor confiscated a few papers for seditious agitation.

The Opposition.

The outcome of the General Election has been to give the National *Bloc* 163 deputies and a majority of eleven over the Opposition, which is further handicapped by disunion. There are serious differences as regards principle; but, apart from these, there are both factions and individuals in the Opposition who by their political convictions incline towards the National *Bloc*, and will in all probability give it their support. And other members of the Opposition, who brought their heaviest guns into the field against the National *Bloc*, are already seeking a *rapprochement* with the Radicals as the largest unit in the Government group, at the expense of the National Democrats, the second largest party in that group. Of course, this attempt has failed, for the Radicals know by former experience that it would not be wise for them to join with parties which differ from them in principle, and so endanger the life of this Parliament.

The Opposition, whose recognised head is M. Liuba Davidovitch, consists of 38 Davidovitch Democrats, some of whom are by no means satisfied with the trend of the party, and are inclined to favour the National *Bloc;* further 20 Slovene Clericals under Father Koroshets, 15 Yugoslav Moslems, and a few Agrarians. The last-named party did very badly at the election. The Raditch Party scored 67 mandates in territory formerly Austro-Hungarian. In its ranks, too, there is disaffection. There is danger of a split precisely over this question of M. Raditch's connection with Bolshevist Russia. The Raditch Party is not a reliable prop of the Opposition.

The Tasks of Parliament.

The National *Bloc*, which was in power at the time of the election, has the majority, and is prepared to get to work. In accordance with the King's wish, one of the first measures to be dealt with will be the Disabled Soldiers Law (*Invalidski Zakon*). Next will come the Press Law and the revision of the Electoral Law. The Press Law will be fairly stringent, because experience has shown that the liberty hitherto permitted has been abused for seditious purposes.

Apparently this Skupshtina intends to make up for former omissions, and to modify and render more stringent such laws as have been too lax, too democratic, one might almost say, for present conditions, while the nation, owing to post-War mentality and enmity, is not yet conscious of its civic duties.

Another distinctly important political question is the conclusion of the Concordat with the Vatican. In Yugoslavia, and especially in Slovenia, the Clerical Party commands considerable power. With the argument that the Faith is in danger, the Catholic clergy are in the habit (with exceptions, of course) of taking a very active hand in politics, especially in times of General Elections. In order to prevent the continuance of this in the future, the Government has decided to draw the attention of His Holiness the Pope to it, incidentally to the conclusion of the Concordat, and to request him to use his authority with the clergy, so that religion and religious influence may no longer be exploited for political purposes.

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ALBANIA.

Tirana, February 20.

The Anglo-Persian Concession.

One of the first acts of Ahmed Bey's Government has been to obtain the ratification by Parliament of the concession granted in 1921 to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. He had given his word, when the question was adjourned prior to the elections in October, 1922, that he would lose no time in obtaining ratification if and when he was returned to power. The vicissitudes of fortune have prevented him doing anything until last Monday, but, like a true Albanian mountain chief, he honoured his word on the first opportunity that presented itself.

The concession gives the exploration company of the Anglo-Persian first pick in Albania to the extent of 200,000 hectares for exploration purposes. The area reserved, however, to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for exploitation is limited to 50,000 hectares. There is, therefore, no monopoly.

Some fears were entertained by the Italian Government with regard to this point when the news came through that the concession had been ratified. Sir Ronald Graham, British Ambassador in Rome, was, however, able to reassure Signor Mussolini. Although the Anglo-Persian Oil Company thereby secures first choice, the area to be assigned to them is not only limited in extent, but there is an area reserved to Italy in addition, part of which, though not large, covers the most promising oil zone. Moreover, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company are pledged to offer participation to Italian capital within their own area, and everything points now to the business being inaugurated to the mutual satisfaction of both the British company and the Italians, whose interests in Albania are rightly considered to be paramount.

Italians are apt to forget that Italy possesses neither the capital to risk the proving of a concession of this kind, nor the expert experience. The presence, therefore, of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in Albania, working in co-operation with Italian interests, should prove the most satisfactory arrangement possible even from Italy's most extreme point of view.

General News.

M. Lipohova, brother of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Minister in Rome in the place of M. Tewfik Mborja.

M. Poga has joined the Ministry in the capacity of Minister of Justice.

The Republican Constitution voted by Parliament, under which Ahmed Bey Zogu was elected President for a period of seven years, has been modelled on the principle of the American Constitution, by which the Executive is separated from the Legislature, and the President elected for a term of years to preside actively over the Executive. As a strong Government, above all things, is needed in Albania, this system is probably better adapted to present needs than the former one.

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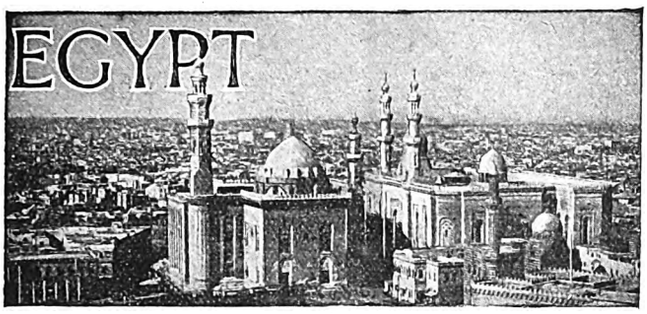

Cairo, February 21.

The Tripoli Frontier Bogey.

At the moment of writing, the Press—I refer to what one may call the purely Egyptian Press—is working itself up considerably over the ultimatum which it alleges the Italian Government has delivered to the Egyptian Government in the matter of the occupation of Jerabub. Once again, as in August last, there would appear to be no foundation either for the alarm expressed or for the attacks made on Italy for her attitude in this matter. As far as can be ascertained, all that has happened is that the Italian Government has inquired of the Egyptian Cabinet whether it is ready now to come to a final settlement with regard to the Tripoli frontier on the lines of the Milner-Sciaioja agreement. The present campaign is another illustration of the complete lack of sense of proportion of the Egyptian Press.

Tutankhamen.

Owing to the great demand made for tickets, the Egyptian Government has agreed to raise to sixty the maximum that can be admitted every Tuesday to the tomb of King Tutankhamen. This should please those interested in the hotel industry, who have complained at the ridiculously small maximum fixed. As a matter of fact, this limit could well be increased to double that number without any extra trouble being involved, for there is little to see, and the time occupied by each party is consequently very small.

Mention of the tourist traffic reminds one that, while the Government has been criticised for not helping the tourist industry by admitting a much larger number every week to the tomb, and so providing a counter-attraction to what other winter resorts can offer, there has been very serious complaint of some of the recently appointed Egyptian Consuls in Europe, who are reported to have deliberately dissuaded intending visitors from coming to Egypt, and to have urged them instead to visit the winter resorts of the countries to which they were accredited. A more ingenious organ for propaganda against Egypt, and one more likely to meet with success, could not well be devised; but it is amazing to learn that Egyptian officials should have lent themselves to such a manœuvre.

Contrary to what he stated when he went up to Luxor, Mr. Howard Carter is doing no work in the tomb of Tutankhamen itself, but is devoting his whole time to the laboratory. The latter still contains a lot of material taken out of the tomb last year, which had been left untreated, and both from the point of view of their preservation and in order to leave as much room as possible for handling next year the large number of objects that still remain to be brought out after the mummy has been investigated, it has been considered advisable to devote the very short time that still remains this season to a clearance of the laboratory.

Meanwhile, practically no other "digging" is being done at Thebes owing to the dispute with the Government over the new antiquities law and the terms of the concessions to be granted under it. Neither the Metropolitan Museum nor the Chicago University is doing any field-work, and, unless the Government materially modifies its attitude, excavations on behalf of learned institutions abroad will come to an end, both there and elsewhere in Egypt. A recital of the details of the dispute would absorb considerable space, but a good idea of the merits of the policy which the Egyptian Government has adopted can probably be obtained from the statement that the terms which it is trying to force on concessionaires are the very terms which the Indian Government has decided to be impracticable for the furtherance of scientific research in the field, and that that Government has now adopted as the sole satisfactory system of concession the very conditions which the Egyptian Government to-day declines to grant any more to qualified applicants for digging concessions.

The Water Commission.

Mr. Canter Cremers, the eminent Dutch water engineer, and chairman of the recently appointed Nile Irrigation Commission, has arrived, and the Commission has embarked on its labours. At present it is collecting the data already available in the Ministry of Public Works, and towards the beginning of March it will proceed to the Sudan, where, under present arrangements, it will inspect Makwar and Gebel Aulia. On the conclusion of its visit there it will tour Egypt and examine the irrigation works and drainage system, and it will commence its deliberations towards the middle of April. It is quite possible that it will present its report before June 30, the date fixed by the "Water-Clause" correspondence.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, February 17.

Threatened Famine.

Iraq is suffering from a serious shortage of grain supplies owing to the poor harvests of last year, which in the Mosul vilayet were aggravated by an invasion of locusts so severe that the Government has been obliged to grant an agricultural loan of one lakh to the impoverished cultivators.

This shortage, combined with the unusual lateness of the winter rains, led to a rapid rise in grain prices, which were forced up by speculating merchants to nearly five times their normal value. The Government at once took the matter in hand, and as a preliminary measure, permitted the import of grain by land or sea free of customs duty; further measures were also under consideration, but their introduction was rendered unnecessary by a timely

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fall of 42 hours' rain last Thursday and Friday, which caused prices to fall with a rush. Thanks to the severe cold of this winter, which has killed off many insect pests, it is expected that the wheat and barley harvest will be an excellent one. The frost has been effective also in destroying boll-worm, the enemy of cotton.

It is interesting to note that since official records were first instituted in 1888, no long unbroken sequence of frosts, such as was experienced last month, has ever occurred in Iraq. The lowest reading for January was 18.8 F., and only once, in 1905, has a lower temperature been recorded. The cold, in conjunction with the fodder shortage, has had very serious effects on animal stock throughout the country; in some areas, particularly in the north, as many as 50 per cent. of the total number of sheep, camels, and cattle have died of exposure.

The Elections.

The elections for Parliament are still held up, pending the Government inquiry into the true electoral population of Iraq. In the local Press it is reported that the numbers have already been ascertained, and are:—

Baghdad	760,858
Mosul	391,577
Basrah	364,512

The chief political parties in Iraq at the moment are the Progressives, the Nationalists, and the Independents. The first, which is almost exclusively Shiah, aims at an united country, with complete independence as soon as possible, a better army, and a stronger educational policy. The second is the lawyers' party, and has on paper much the same aims, with the addition of a desire to hasten the development of Iraq's natural resources. "Al Istiqlal," which has its headquarters, not in Baghdad, but in Mosul, devotes its energies chiefly towards the attainment of complete independence.

The Port of Basrah.

Great improvements have been made at Basrah in the facilities provided for shipment of grain. At present, grain exported from Iraq commands a low price in the world's markets, owing to its reputation for bad grading and cleaning. It is hoped that the improvements at the port will encourage exporters to alter this state of things, so that Iraq grain may compete fairly with that of other countries. A new seif has been laid down at Magil, and a series of railway sidings provided to deal with the grain as it is unloaded from river craft. With regard to outward shipping, six berths have been laid down so that ocean-going steamers can load direct from the seif. It will thus be possible to deal with 2,000 tons of grain in a day—a great advance on previous figures.

The Frontier Commission.

The Commissioners sent by the League of Nations to delimit the boundary between Iraq and Turkey arrived on January 27 at Mosul, where they were visited last week by the High Commissioner. The presence of the Commission is exciting considerable patriotic excitement in Mosul. According to a Baghdad vernacular paper, "the Commissioners were surprised, and the Turkish assessors annoyed, at the fervour of the people." The Minister of Interior has issued a warning against popular demonstrations which may impede the work of the Commission, but the situation is complicated by the inclusion in the Turkish delegation of two renegade Iraqi members, both of whom have in the past incited rebellion against the Iraq and Mandatory Governments. A strong protest was made to the Commission by the High Commissioner, and to the League of Nations by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the British Foreign Minister, at the presence with the Commission of these "notorious outlaw inhabitants of the Mosul vilayet." Popular feeling runs so high against Turkey that it has been necessary to take strong police precautions in Mosul. The Commissioners were at first inclined to regard these as superfluous, but a sudden fanatical outburst, which ended in bloodshed, has perhaps convinced them of the wisdom of the Iraq Government's measures. The vernacular Press reflects the general attitude in a number of diatribes against Turkish misrule, as the following example (one of the more restrained) will show.

"... The coming of refugees from Anatolia and Armenia increased these calamities. Thousands of them came to Mosul, overcrowding the town and heightening the famine prices. These refugees were a grazing ground for those human brutes, the Turkish military leaders; they drove them as a shepherd drives his sheep. ... Mosul became a centre of disease, and death reaped souls as the harvester his harvest. The military authorities did nothing but satisfy their personal desires; forgetting their national duty, they did nothing to help the people.

"Free speech and thought were prohibited to the people of Mosul; even the most enlightened did not dare to meet together to discuss means of helping their country. Spies were everywhere. ... This is the painful truth about Turkish rule in our dear country."

JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE.

Official returns show that 11,851 Jews—4,573 men, 3,836 women, and 3,442 children—entered Palestine as immigrants during the twelve months ending on December 31 last. During the same period the Jewish emigrants numbered 2,037, so that the net increase of the population through immigration during the year was 9,814. The corresponding increase in 1923 was 3,788. In recent months immigration has somewhat changed in character, a large proportion of those entering the country being people with means. A substantial number are already founding new industries, and others are being readily absorbed into the labour market. As a result, there is, for the present, practically no unemployment among the Jewish population, and the number of non-Jews reported to be out of work has also decreased.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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TURKEY TO-DAY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The letter under the above heading from Mr. Kenneth P. Kirkwood, which appeared in your issue of February 19, is interesting, but, if he will forgive me the expression, it is marred by the implications it contains regarding the fairness of Lieut.-Colonel J. H. M. Cornwall's criticisms.

If Mr. Kirkwood can read, write, and speak Turkish with the accuracy of Colonel Cornwall he may class himself as a rare exception amongst foreigners resident in Turkey. If he has travelled as widely in Anatolia he should, indeed, speak with knowledge of the cobblers in many villages, for he would certainly have required their services! If, further, he would realise that Colonel Cornwall, like the majority of our Army men, has a distinct weakness for the fighting Turk, he would, perhaps, give more generous consideration to the valuable lecture delivered by Colonel Cornwall.

Mr. Kirkwood agrees that "friendship (with Turkey) can only be obtained if we have a true understanding." He should not, therefore, so lightly brush aside the views of a friendly critic.

Mr. Kirkwood boldly states that "the population of the country is not declining." He may be right, but Turkish statistics must be carefully scrutinised lest, perchance, the vilayet of, say, Mosul, is included. That the Turkish population of Anatolia has been steadily shrinking for many long years past cannot, I suppose, be denied. This may have ceased. Turkey is certainly relieved of the constant drain on her manhood entailed by the occupation of the Yemen. On the other hand, the terrible scourge which wastes the Castamboul and other districts has not been curbed, nor, I fear, has anything been done to fight phthisis and malaria.

Mr. Kirkwood is on more solid ground where he refers to handicrafts, and to these he could have added husbandry. The Turk can produce cobblers, leather workers, brass, iron and silver smiths, carpenters, and builders of fair ability, though they were unable to compete in efficiency with Greek, Armenian, and foreign workers. Hence the desire to exclude these elements.

Turkish authorities are certainly reluctant to admit foreign capital, for with the capital come the foreigners, and Turkey has no small reason to mistrust and even to hate foreign intervention, intrigues, and ambitions. It may be assumed, therefore, that foreign capital will not be sought till every possible expedient has been tried to allow of "All Turkish" enterprise.

It is at this point that something in the nature of a vicious circle is encountered, which, no doubt, exercises the mind of the Government. The Turk, when not at war, turns instinctively to agriculture, in which his pronounced individualism is unrestricted. Land is plentiful and fertile in sparsely populated Anatolia. A large proportion of available labour is therefore absorbed in this congenial occupation. This leaves an acute shortage of man-power for industrial employment. Turkey is therefore obliged to choose between doing without factories, when the consequent economic loss through excessive importations is considerable, or of permitting foreign labour to settle in the country, with all the woes and worries which the past has shown this expedient connotes.

Nevertheless, Mr. Kirkwood is probably right in believing that the day is drawing close when foreign capital will be sought, despite the drawbacks.—I am, etc.,

J. C. T.

Fleet, Hants.
February 21, 1925.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—As a British resident who has remained, I would like to remark that, as far as my experience among a large circle of friends and acquaintances also remaining in Turkey goes, there is a much larger tendency to share Lt.-Col. Cornwall's views than to express Mr. Kirkwood's optimism.

It is surprising to learn that the opinions and prejudices of a year ago are already antiquated. Indeed, the word "prejudice" itself seems to indicate a lack of appreciation of the sentiments of the British residents, who, with Lt.-Col. Cornwall, have considerable sympathy with the Turkish ideals, but their opinion of the measures taken to secure them has undergone no great change in the past year.

Lt.-Col. Cornwall's experience with the cobblers is undoubtedly the experience of most of us, and the example can be extended to almost all trades. For a further example, during the present winter, for three months, and in spite of the work of five workmen, my roof leaked continuously, until at last a Greek workman was unearthed and promptly repaired the damage in an hour. Building work, and, indeed, all kinds of work requiring skilled labour, are very much hindered, as such labour is practically non-existent.

The economic condition of the country is reflected in the further depreciation of the Turkish lira, which now stands at 930 to the £, a fall of about 100 points in the past twelve months. Also there is the detail of a deficit of Ltqs. 17 millions on a Budget of Ltqs. 162 millions. Money is very scarce indeed, and is reflected in the wholesale reductions of rents, as landlords cannot get tenants to pay even moderate rents. A quite good lock-up shop in a prominent position near the Tunnell, which a month ago was on offer for Ltqs. 40 per month, has now been let for Ltqs. 25 per month, or less than £3.

The fanaticism of the Government is directed against its own subjects no less than against foreigners. Witness the forcing of the concessionaire companies to employ Turks only, the definition of a Turk being a Moslem, Christian Turks being as greatly objected to as Greeks. Jewish and Christian Turks, although Turks for the purposes of taxation, are not Turks for the purpose of earning wages to pay such taxation!

If Mr. Kirkwood really considers that the Government is bound to take cognisance of the Press demands, I fear he is doomed to disappointment, as the much vaunted liberty of the Press is a dead letter, as witness the suppression of several papers, including the very innocuous *Orient News*, the only British daily published here.

What little optimism remains is due to the opinion that things are so bad that they can

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scarcely get worse, and that possibly an empty exchequer may result in a change of policy, though not necessarily of heart.

An appreciation of Lt.-Col. Cornwall's wide knowledge of the conditions of Turkey and of the truth and fearlessness of his opinions has led me to write in support of his statements.—I am, etc.,

"Observer."

Another correspondent writes:—

"A finer man than Colonel Cornwall would be hard to find. I like him immensely, but, for all that, I do not fall in with his views, although I have suffered much more at the hands of the Turks than he is ever likely to. You will find that certain business negotiations now in progress with Angora are much more a reflection of the times than Colonel Cornwall's views. It must not be forgotten that he was G.S. (Intelligence) with the Army of Occupation, and as he did not leave with the forces, it is not to be wondered at if the Turks regarded him with a certain amount of suspicion. I really believe that he is voicing his own personal opinion formulated and based upon a certain amount of inconvenience that he has experienced at some time or other. He certainly has not had business relations with the country or its people, nor has he ever conducted any negotiations other than military, which, to my mind, do not count when it comes to judging the present-day Turk."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE WEALTH OF PEASANTS.

"CROP PRODUCTION IN INDIA." By A. Howard. (Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

In this commendably small volume Mr. Albert Howard, the well-known economic botanist, attempts to set out in plain language the problems which have still to be solved by men of science before the Indian peasant can come into his fortune. So far as the agricultural side is concerned, we can fairly describe the attempt as a success, and, while different authorities may be expected to take various views on particular questions, the book as a whole can safely be recommended to readers who want to know how Lord Curzon's great undertaking stands after twenty years of active work. On the commercial side we notice a few weaknesses. The trade will stare at the statement on page 61 that India does not export wool: what are the East India wool sales for? Economists will smile at the naive assumption on page 123 that the purchase of foreign goods involves a serious drain on the people who buy them; on that theory poor old England would have been drained dry long ago. Such lapses, however, are rare, and ordinarily well-informed readers will not be seriously troubled by them.

The concluding section, on the organisation of research, is disappointing. Influenced perhaps by his environment, Mr. Howard regards the main problem of organisation as the liberation of State-paid individual investigators from the control of the State which pays for their investigations. The real problem of to-day is how to replace individual investigation by co-ordinated team-work without sacrificing the benefits of individual initiative: when that problem has been solved, the question of State control will lose all its difficulty, but English men of science will probably continue to boggle at co-ordination for some time to come, and the world will have to wait a little longer for the knowledge which it needs.

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EAST OF PRAGUE.

"EAST OF PRAGUE. IMPRESSIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA." By Major C. J. C. Street. (London: Geoffrey Bles. 10s. 6d. net.)

Major Street has accomplished gracefully a most difficult task—the description of a young Republic as seen from a motor-car. "East of Prague," the result of a five or six hundred miles' run through Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, and Ruthenia affords, from the British point of view, a charming introduction to Czechoslovakia, and from the Czech point of view an invaluable advertisement throughout the English-speaking world. Unless we are mistaken, a large public will be found for the book in Czechoslovakia itself.

When his car crosses from Slovakia into Ruthenia to obtain an intimate acquaintance with the glorious forest valleys of the Eastern Carpathians and the mountain tributaries of the black Theiss, or Tserna Tisa, our author's powers of word-painting attain a high level. Uzok, Uzcorna, Jasina come vividly on the screen with their peasants, their poverty, and their aloofness from civilisation; until at the top of the Jablonica Pass we look down upon the terrible eastern slopes which the Russian masses under Brusiloff vainly stormed against the forest-hidden Austro-Hungarian guns. In the dense forests on the western side the Ruthenian villagers in some valleys were unaware of the mighty combats taking place. The Russians never broke through. Russia broke up instead. The Republic of Czechoslovakia arose out of the bloody welter, and Major Street entices us most artfully to know the new Republic better. The book has some excellent photographs, and a map by the author.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Modern Turkey." By Eliot Grinnell Mears. (London and New York: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 25s. net.)

"Egypt." By Sir E. A. Wallis Budge, M.A., Litt.D., F.S.A. Home University Library of Modern Knowledge Series. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Egypt." By H. H. Powers. Illustrated. University Travel Series. (London and New York: Macmillan and Co. $2.50.)

"Atonement." A play in four acts. By Edward Thompson. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 3s. 6d. paper; 5s. cloth.)

"The Tiger of Tibet." By Gerald Burrard. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Gospel of St. John According to the Earliest Coptic Manuscript." Edited with a Translation by Sir Herbert Thompson. (London: University College and Bernard Quaritch.)

"Mysteries of the Libyan Desert: A Record of Three Years of Exploration in the Heart of that Vast and Waterless Region." By W. J. Harding King, F.R.G.S. (London: Seeley, Service, and Co., Ltd. 21s. net. With 49 illustrations and 2 maps.)

"Egypt Under the Egyptians." By Murray Harris. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 5, 1925 (New Style).
February 20, 1925 (Old Style).
Shaaban 9, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar 9, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Seymour Tritton has arrived in England from Bombay.

Lady Tweedmouth has returned to 57, Seymour Street from Egypt.

Sir Montagu and Lady Sharpe have left Brent Lodge, Hanwell, for Cairo.

Sir Adam Block arrived in London last week from Constantinople and the Riviera.

The Indian Empire Club will hold dances on March 14 and March 28 at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Lord and Lady Swaythling will return to 28, Kensington Court, at the end of March from India.

Colonel F. Ramsay sailed last Thursday in the transport Assaye to take up a command in India.

The Crown Princess of Roumania paid a visit on February 24 to Queen Mary's Maternity Home at Hampstead.

Sir Arthur and Lady Downes and Sir George Manners, who recently went a trip up the Nile, have now returned to Cairo.

Hechmat Bey, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, returned to London on February 25 from Cairo after several months' absence.

Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, and Lady Chatterjee have moved from the Grosvenor Hotel to 131, Ashley Gardens, S.W.

H.E. M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister in London, who was taken ill whilst in Athens, has now recovered. He will remain abroad for several weeks more.

The Crown Princess of Roumania, who has been paying a visit to England, left last Sunday for Bucharest. Her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, accompanied her as far as Paris.

Sir Francis and Lady Macnaghten, Sir John and Lady Harington, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Barter, and Mrs. Ballard Smith are among the recent arrivals at the Semiramis Hotel, Cairo.

To celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of Afghanistan, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires in London held a reception at 42, Grosvenor Place, last night.

Aziz Izzett Pasha gave a farewell banquet on February 24 at Semiramis Hotel, Cairo, prior to his departure for London. Viscount Allenby, Viscount Jellicoe, and all the Ministers were present.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Chargé d'Affaires of the Egyptian Legation, has returned to London. He has been representing the Egyptian Government at the Conference of International Travel, held in Paris lately, and whilst there he took leave of the official authorities and the Diplomatic Corps.

On February 27, Sir Kay and Lady (Nadejda) Muir were host and hostess to the Pytchley Hunt, when the meet took place for the first time at Whilton Lodge, Northants, Sir Kay's English home.

In celebration of the seventy-fifth birthday of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Mrs. Bruce will, under the auspices of the Czech Society of Great Britain, hold an "At Home" on March 7, at 23, Cornwall Road, S.W.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Minister to the United States, and his daughter Priscilla, sailed on February 25 in the White Star liner Olympic for New York. Princess Bibesco is remaining in London for the present.

As a result of the appointment of Mr. Tite as general manager in London of the International Sleeping Car Company, Mr. J. H. Chaker, assistant manager in Egypt since 1906, has been appointed general manager for Egypt and Palestine.

On February 28, at Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair, by the Rev. Hugh Embling, the marriage took place of Torick, younger son of the Right Hon. Syed Ameer Ali and Mrs. Ameer Ali, to Mary Louise, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Carter.

Mrs. Austen Chamberlain, with Master Chamberlain and Miss Chamberlain, the Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston, and Miss Marcel Duggan, and Lord Askwith and the Hon. Betty Askwith, sailed from Monaco yesterday in the s.y. Meteor for a cruise to Egypt, Palestine and Greece.

Viscount Chelmsford will preside at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on Friday, March 6, when Sir Henry Sharp, Secretary to the Statutory Commission on Oxford and late Secretary to the Government of India, will read a paper on "The Development of Indian Universities." The chair will be taken at 4.30 o'clock.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1925.

TURKEY AND THE KURDS.

The outbreak of a revolt in Kurdistan must be particularly galling to the Turkish Government at the present time. Although relations between the two peoples have never been characterised by much friendliness, the Kurds have so far done nothing to belie the solicitude which the Republican authorities have protested for them in furtherance of their claim to the Mosul vilayet. The famous National Pact speaks of an Ottoman Moslem majority "united in religion, in race, and in aim, imbued with sentiments of mutual respect for each other and of sacrifice, and wholly respectful of each other's racial and social rights and surrounding conditions," and only fourteen months ago Ismet Pasha, then Prime Minister, declared that the Kurds were included in that term "Moslem majority," and that both Turks and Kurds must be considered as a single element. A sudden rising of practically the whole of Turkish Kurdistan against the authority of Angora throws a curious light on these claims. The outbreak must have taken the Turks unawares, for prisons were seized, gendarmes and guards captured, and telegraphic communications cut, before the Government appears to have had knowledge that anything was wrong in Kurdistan. Aided by the wintry weather, which impedes the movements of troops, the Kurds have made the most of their start, and have made themselves masters of the greater part of Western Kurdistan, between Kharput and Urfa. Their success is hardly likely to outlive the winter months, for the insurgents should prove no match for a disciplined Turkish army, unless the presence of Turkish exiles has the effect of bringing about greater cohesion than is usually shown in Kurdish movements. Later reports from Turkey suggest that the rebel tide has already begun to recede, even before the Turkish army has arrived on the scene. The local population is said to have turned on the insurgent forces, who had given themselves up to looting, and to have been able to drive them out of one or two towns; but it is not likely that the rising will be finally quelled until the Turkish army has taken the field in some force.

For the present it is impossible to determine with any certainty what is behind the outbreak. It is inevitable that the Turks should attribute it to British intrigue, designed to score a point at the time of the League of Nations' inquiry into the Mosul question. But Arghana is a long way from Iraq, and the most rabid Anglophobe among the Turks will find it difficult to convince himself that Great Britain has really had a hand in starting a revolt almost in the centre of Anatolia. If it be true that some proscribed Turks have made their way to Kurdistan, and that one of the sons of Abdul Hamid has been proclaimed King, some national consciousness may have in this instance supplied the torch to fire Kurdish lawlessness. The head of the movement is said to be Sheikh Said, who has denounced Turkish interference with the Caliphate, and poses as a champion of Islam against the atheistic tendencies of Angora. Although the Sheikh is a leader of a Dervish sect, religion has always sat so lightly on a Kurd that it is difficult to believe that religious fervour has supplied the real motive power to the revolt. Sheikh Said, if he has any military or political instinct, will naturally make his indictment of the Turks cover as wide a ground as possible, in order to increase the numbers of the insurgents; but he has probably found that the well-meant reforms of the Angora Government in the administration of the country a sufficient stimulus to rally the Kurds to their national calling. "Whatever the Kurd does," says Dr. D. G. Hogarth in "The Wandering Scholar," "is done for the sake neither of Crescent nor Cross, for he bears neither one emblem nor the other in his heart, but just because he is Ishmael, his hand against every man who has aught to lose." If this diagnosis holds good to-day, the proclamation in which Sheikh Said announces his intention of restoring the Caliphate and requiring women to veil again will probably appeal to him personally as head of a religious order more than to his followers, in whom the first stirrings of a national consciousness have a less compelling influence than the hereditary instinct for fighting and looting.

Whether the insurrection is put down easily or only after an organised campaign, its significance will not be lost upon the Turks. They can hardly be blamed for not sharing the optimism of the framers of the Treaty of Sèvres in regard to an autonomous Kurdistan, and there are several reasons why they should not want to see Turkey still further reduced by being deprived of those Kurds who have been left in Turkish territory. The anxiety to secure possession of the Mosul vilayet may be based on economic or financial grounds, but it will also have taken note of the fact that, if any considerable section of the Kurds come under a more satisfactory type of administration, the Turkish task of governing the Kurds in Turkey will be rendered far more difficult. The present insurrection is an indication of the troubles that will always be liable to descend on the Angora Government. If it is stamped out in the approved style, peace may be secured for a certain number of years, but the more effectually this is done the more completely will the Kurds of Iraq—that is to say, of the Mosul vilayet—be estranged from the Turks. That this lesson should be brought home to them just at the time when the fate of the Mosul area may be said to be in the balance must be a bad blow to Angora. Few people can be of opinion that the Kurds at the present time would make a success of autonomy. In the past they have not found Turkish suzerainty particularly irksome, and they would probably be prepared to put up with the kind of rule to which they have been accustomed. Republican Turkey, however, is desirous of leaving its mark on Kurdistan as clearly as on the rest of the Turkish territory. Unfortunately for it, this reforming zeal coincides in point of time with the first beginnings of a sense of national unity among the Kurds. The problem for Turkey, therefore, as one of the results of the present outbreak, is to decide whether it will run the risk of completely estranging Kurdish opinion by a ruthless suppression of the revolt, or will try to profit by the admitted unreadiness of the Kurd for autonomy and by the advantage that he stands to derive from ordered government under administrators bound to him by ties of religion, in order to humour the Kurdish hankering for a decentralised system of administration, while keeping Kurdistan within the orbit of the Turkish Republic.

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A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.—IV.

BY ARTHUR CARR.

(*Continued from page* 230.)

The Caravan Route to the Black Sea.

I left Tabriz on Wednesday, October 29, en route for Trebizond, via Armenia. This has been for centuries the caravan route from the Black Sea, and to-day the methods of transport are almost as primitive as they were 2,000 years ago. Persian, Mongolian, Turkish, Grecian, and Russian armies have all trodden this famous caravan route, but it has altered little. It is true that from Tabriz to Joulfa, and again from Erzeroum to Trebizond, the Russians have made a fairly good road, but for the greater part of 600 miles it still remains a camel track. This ancient route, even in this age of engineering, has no railway, and goods are forwarded by animal transport alone. There are at least always 3,000 camels coming and going, and I myself counted one caravan of 400. At present, with the route to Persia via Batoum and Tiflis practically closed to transport, this road is experiencing a boom. The great pity of it is, however, that Persian exports, being so small, it often happens that the transport animals return with very light loads, and sometimes without any load at all. This makes the cost of transport heavy, as the outgoing caravans have to cover the cost both ways. Even should a railway be made, this would make it a very doubtful financial proposition.

To Erzeroum.

I engaged a carriage with three horses and two men to take me to Erzeroum, a distance of roughly 400 miles. When I say "carriage" I must be sure that I am properly understood. These carriages in Persia are called "phætons," and they are the perfection of discomfort. No leg room—a very necessary thing when one has to sit in the same vehicle twelve days on end—no protection from the wind or rain, and with a very inefficient hood coming up from the back. When on the level or going down hill the horses go at a slow trot, but as soon as a rise appears they immediately slow down to a walk. Going up hills very often means getting out and walking. Travelling in the summer by this means is tedious and trying, but in winter, with the North wind almost constantly blowing and snow falling, it is just horrible. However, we made a quite brave appearance as we wound our way through the crooked streets of Tabriz and finally emerged on the wide Joulfa road. It was hard going, for three days before there had been a very heavy fall of snow, so that the first day we got no further than Sofian, where we put up for the night. I occupied here what is called a "Manzel," or a guest room; just a bare room with an iron stove in the middle. One window looked out on to the Russian railway running from Tabriz to Joulfa, and the other window on to the yard of the caravanserai. To anyone who has ever passed a night in one of Persia's salubrious caravanserai I have no need to describe the "Perfumes of Araby" which wafted into my chamber. However, there was one thing for which I was thankful —I was alone. Lack of privacy is what makes these journeys irksome. At sunrise next morning, Thursday, October 30, the horses were hitched up and we started off towards Marand. As we went along, the sun gradually climbed over the hills behind, and as its rays caught the snow which lay thick on the ground, it glittered like a million diamonds; it was a beautiful sight, such as one gets in Switzerland. Also, the glow of the rising sun tinted the snow-covered hills in front with purple. We reached Marand at 10 a.m., where we had the usual glass of tea, and then turned from the main road to Joulfa to the left towards Khoi. From Marand the road was very bad, and the next stage quite impossible for anything but animal transport; even for camels it must be rough going. At 5 p.m. we arrived at (I believe the name is) Erisi, and put in the caravanserai for the night. Here was no "Manzel," and I had to share the same room as the caravan drivers and the rest of them—no privacy whatever. This was a very long, oblong-shaped room, along the sides of which ran broad mud benches, as also at the top end. At the entrance stood a large "Samavar," always kept boiling. I was given the bench at the top end, where I arranged my camp bed, and from there I could see all that went on. I was much interested to watch the muleteers and camel drivers as they came in, after having first made safe and comfortable their mules, camels, and so on. Before eating, these men invariably washed their hands and went through their devotions. What struck me was with what earnestness and with what complete detachment these rough men prayed. As they murmured their *Salaam Aleikums*, one felt that these men knew themselves in the actual presence of God. No matter that others were talking, eating, laughing, no matter that I, the "infidel," was there, they conversed with their God in intimate tones. Devotions finished, tea was brought, then food and cigarettes. At the other end, by the door, sat two gendarmes, guardians of the caravanserai, their revolvers, rifles, and belts of cartridges hung on the wall over their heads. Then came the blind "Asher," or strolling singer, who sang and recited for hours, with these ragged drivers, who, one could see, thoroughly enjoyed the songs, laughing or applauding, according as they were comic or sentimental. All the time tea was handed round. It was a strange sight, where one saw human nature in a fairly primitive state, but it was interesting. At 11 p.m. the "Asher" finished his songs, the lamp was extinguished, and all these different men curled themselves up on the benches, covered themselves with rough blankets or skins, and slept.

Next morning, Friday, October 31, we left at sunrise direct for Khoi. The going was very bad, for many hours over a marshy plain until we reached the main road running from Joulfa to Khoi, and which was built by the Russians. It was a weary, tedious ride over this muddy plain, flanked by mud hills without a tree or shrub to relieve the monotony. From Marand to Khoi even our old friends the telegraph lines had deserted us. To one who is used to European travel, I must explain that in such countries as Persia the telegraph lines and posts are often the only companions one has for scores of miles, so that finally one gets on very good terms with the wires, the insulators, and the posts. One always looks for them in the distance, watching them, talking to them, so that when they finally disappeared, as they did between Marand and Khoi, one felt very sad. However, on striking the road again just

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outside Khoi, everything was more interesting, and I came to the conclusion that Khoi must be a place of importance. We arrived at this town at 12 noon. Here I had a letter of introduction to a certain merchant, "Haji Reza." I left the horses at the caravanserai, and after a lot of trouble found my friend.

Persian Hospitality.

Here I must try and give some idea of the hospitality which one finds everywhere in Persia. It is extraordinary what a Persian, be he rich or poor, will do for a stranger. When we met, Haji Reza invited me to his house, put a special room at my disposal, and so that I should be more at ease, invited several of his friends, two of whom spoke French. In the evening he had the table set in the European way, and he himself even ate with a knife and fork, which was the greatest compliment he could pay me. I shall never forget that dinner or the man who put himself to such inconvenience to do me honour. That night I slept on a clean soft bed—of course, on the floor, as there are few bedsteads amongst the Persians, but I slept like a babe and woke up in the morning beautifully refreshed. Haji accompanied me to the caravanserai, where I joined my phæton, and left Khoi at 9 a.m. for another stage.

Khoi Cemeteries.

Khoi lies in a fertile plain, and grain, cotton, fruit, as well as large quantities of mulberry trees, are cultivated. The environs are beautiful, and one approaches and leaves this prosperous town by broad tree-bordered avenues. Here I noticed the cemeteries were better kept than in any part of Persia which I had previously visited, each grave having a headstone with the name neatly carved at the top. This is a very rare thing in Persia, where the cemeteries are universally neglected. I wondered what trait in the character of the people of Khoi was responsible for this.

Zorabad and Garany.

After a very cold ride I reached Zorabad at 9.30 p.m., November 1. On the road I met a party of Russians who had started out for Trebizond, and who were returning in a "phæton" to Tabriz. They told me that I could not possibly get through, as at Garany snow lay 2 metres deep on the road. I spoke to my driver, who replied *Inshallah miravim sahib* ("God willing, sahib, we go forward"), and on we went. I was in no mind to go back, but I knew it was a race against the snow to Erzeroum. Zorabad is simply the usual filthy Persian village. Next morning we started out at 6 a.m. because I was very anxious to push forward. The day was terribly cold on account of the wind's blowing like ice from the snow-covered mountains. We arrived at Garany at 5.30 p.m., Sunday, November 2. Here a Persian put a room at my disposal, which he particularly explained to me was not a "Manzel," a room one could hire, but was one of the rooms of his own private dwelling. The room was certainly very clean, but, unfortunately, there was no stove, and I think I never passed such a cold night in my life. In spite of being fully dressed, even with boots and overcoat on, and over this a heavy "Pushteen" (a sheepskin rug), I could not keep myself warm. At Garany there is a fine camping-ground for caravans, and in the evening I watched hundreds of camels being unloaded, formed into circles, and fed. Out of curiosity I strolled through the camp, and was interested to see some scores of bales carrying the marks of my own firm. At least, one can understand why packing must be strong and thoroughly waterproof. Nevertheless, the bales and cases are handled in a very workmanlike manner, and large quantities are loaded or unloaded in a very short time. In the morning, with sunrise, and before its rays top the Eastern hills, the camels are formed up and loaded. Then the whole train gets on the move, and long strings of camels disappear with noiseless tread, just like dreamships, the only sound being the klonk, klonk, and boom, boom of their bells.

(*To be concluded.*)

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THE FOUNDATION OF CAIRO.

On February 25, in the third of the series of lectures that he is delivering at the London School of Oriental Studies, Mr. Ernest Richmond covered a considerable period of history, ending with the rise to power of the Fatimid Caliphs and the foundation of Cairo. Of this last event he said that on the same night, August 5, 969, that the Fatimid General entered Fustat, the old capital of Egypt, the new capital was commenced on a sandy waste near by. Here a square had been laid out about 1,200 yards along each side. In order to determine the auspicious moment for the workmen to begin the trenches for the foundations for the enclosing wall, Moorish astrologers had been consulted. Poles had been set up along the lines of the proposed trenches, and these poles were connected by ropes on which were hung bells. The excavators were awaiting the signal, which was to be given by the astrologers pulling on the ropes and setting the bells ringing; when, before the auspicious hour could arrive, a raven settling upon one of the ropes caused all the bells to jingle. Whereupon every mattock struck the earth and digging was begun. What was done could not be undone, but it was an unlucky hour. Mars was in the ascendant. The name Cairo, derived from the Arabic name for the planet Mars, commemorates the incident.

Of Al Azhar, the lecturer said that the foundation of the great mosque which has since become the University was commenced in the year following the foundation of Cairo. As originally designed and built, it was about 300 feet in width and 250 feet in length. It was enclosed by a brick wall. The broad side of the rectangle faced south-east towards Mecca. The arcade of the sanctuary consisted of ancient columns and capitals carrying pointed arches of the form known as Persian, this being the first appearance of that form of arch. The walls and arches were thickly covered with plaster, in which ornaments and inscriptions were carved. At this period Moslem architecture in Egypt was still the brick architecture of Mesopotamia. Its origin had been in mud, and in the earlier days of Islam, before the development of glazed tiles, it depended on plaster and paint for its decoration.

Air-Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker arrived in Baghdad last Saturday on his return flight from India.

The Turkish Government has notified the Secretariat of the League of Nations that it will send delegates to the International Conference for the Control of Armaments which assembles to-day.

The Afghan Government will introduce on March 21 a new silver coin called the "amania," after Amanullah Khan, the Ameer, of the value approximately of the present Kabuli rupee. A half-amania, with nickel coins of smaller denominations, will also be minted.

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ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association was held on February 25, by kind permission of Mrs. Bruce Dick, at 55, Harrington Gardens, S.W., to discuss the subject of "Islam and Christianity." Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen presided, and among those present were: H.E. the Swedish Minister, H.E. the Albanian Minister, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires, M. Nelky, Hungarian Legation; Count Raczynski, Polish Legation; Princess Dolgorouky, Prince and Princess Soumbatoff, Viscountess Combermere, Viscountess Dupplin, Sir Richard Butler, Sir Armine Dew, Sir Aurel Stein, Sir John Foster Fraser, Sir William Clark, Sir Harry Lamb, Mr. Leland Buxton, Mrs. Stewart Erskine, Mr. W. H. Nevinson, Mrs. Charles Hancock, Mr. Ernest Richmond, Mr. C. R. Ashbee, Mr. Percy Molteno, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Graham, and Mr. and Mrs. James Conchie.

Sir Thomas Arnold first addressed the meeting. He pointed out the necessity of a wider attitude towards the Muslim subjects of the British Empire. The world was not now what it had formerly been, and with the geographical shrinking, owing to the development of communications, motor-cars, wireless, and so on, had come an increased sensitiveness on the part of Islam towards the West. The old superiority which it was the fashion of the nineteenth and earlier centuries to assume towards Islam was false and must be altered, and its continued indulgence by writers, and particularly by politicians, did infinite harm. Sir Thomas instanced remarks made by Mr. Lloyd George as having had a very bad effect on Indian Muslims, and he disapproved of Mr. Stanley Baldwin's recent reference to Layard on the subject of Mosul. Further, it might be that a renascence of Islam was at hand. The Mohammedan year was 1343—the age corresponding in our Christian time to that of Petrarch. Such a comparison itself was sufficiently pregnant. Islam and Christianity must get to understand one another. After all, if the world were divided into West and East, Islam and Christianity fell together in the West. A return should be made to the spirit in which the great Pope Gregory VII. wrote in 1076 to an Emir in Algeria, saying that the fundamental fact which should govern the relations between Christians and Muslims was that they both believed in one and the same God.

Next, two papers, written by Mr. Ameer Ali and the Rev. Dr. Miller Kay respectively, were read by Dr. E. H. Griffin.

Mr. Ameer Ali contended that the attitude of Islam towards Christianity had ever since the Prophet granted his famous charter to the Christians of Najran been one of friendship and toleration. When other feelings had been entertained, the origin was to be found not in religious but in political causes. In Saracenic Spain it was one long history of bigotry and fanaticism on one side and continuous effort at conciliation on the part of the Arabs. However, Christianity and Islam were offshoots of the same stock, and it was by an accident that Christianity, when it was transplanted in Europe, became identified with conceptions foreign to the teachings of Jesus. This proved the cause of future wars.

A further note by Mr. Ameer Ali was read on the subject of polygamy, in which it appeared to be held that more than one wife was allowed to Muslims because of an economic necessity, and that where such necessity did not exist, monogamy was the tendency. Further, Islam inhibited slavery.

Professor D. M. Kay (of St. Andrews University) suggested that all the religions which acknowledge Abraham as the Father of the Faithful might profitably co-operate for the advancement of knowledge and for the cultivation of international goodwill. For instance, the history of the period before Christ was of equal interest to Christians and Muslims. There was significance in the precedent established by Haroun-er-Rashid when he founded in Jerusalem a hostel which should enable Christian pilgrims to exercise their faith and to make the acquaintance of their hosts. In Jerusalem there might again be a *studium generale*, a habitation for Semitic wisdom of every type. And from the point of view of international good will it should be remembered that Islam, the latest version of the religion of Abraham, commands the glad assent of one-eighth of the human race. The Bible and the Koran are more widely distributed than any other books. The chief end of Islam was (as its name implied) peace; and the support of Islam for the aims of a League of Peace was far more important than the adhesion of any single national State.

Finally, a paper on the differences between Christians and Muslims was read by Lord Headley. He began by asserting that far more Englishmen would proclaim themselves Muslims but for the social consequences, and continued with a statement of the impossibility of being a good Muslim without being a good Christian. Duty to God and Duty to Neighbour formed the one solid basis of Islam and unfettered Christianity. Unfettered Christianity he explained as that form which lacked the dogmas "invented by Monks and Priests in the Middle Ages." It was these dogmas, this priestcraft or sacerdotalisms, to which the Muslim objected. At the present time he believed that there was an increasing revolt against mediæval superstition and dogmatic intolerance.

In the subsequent discussion a variety of matters were touched upon. Mr. Yussuf Ali, in explaining the desirability of co-operation between Islam and Christianity, spoke of the breadth of view which the writers of the papers had expressed. What was necessary was for Muslims to produce more Ameer Alis and for Christians to produce more Sir Thomas Arnolds. Personally, he, a Muslim, found it as easy to worship his Maker in a Roman Catholic church or a Protestant church as in a mosque.

A Catholic speaker, in welcoming the idea of closer co-operation with Islam wherever it was possible, deprecated the idea of attacks upon Catholic tenets as the best way of fostering such co-operation.

The Rev. Dr. Frew, of Constantinople, humourously pleaded with his audience not to accept the idea that the Turk (his very good friend) was a better man than his fellow-Christian, or that he was kinder to the lower animals, or that he was any more strict in his observance of Fridays than were Christians of their Sundays.

This last view was contradicted by Professor Henri Léon, who asserted that the Turk, at any rate before the 1908 Revolution, was far humaner to animals than were the Christians. In Turkey the idea of a bullfight was impossible. But toleration was the main thing. Just as one could not grow carrots in the same field as turnips, so must the relations of Islam and Christianity be.

Mr. Lovegrove inquired whether it had yet been

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found necessary to establish an R.S.P.C.A. in Turkey.

Mr. Nevinson, describing himself neither as a Christian nor a Muslim ("neither a carrot nor a turnip"), asked what, if Islam forbade slavery, was the point of the activities of British ships patrolling the Red Sea, and what, if no wars were waged by Muslims except in political causes, was the fighting between Albanian Christians and Albanian Muslims caused by?

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERY IN ARMENIA.

The latest news and photographs from Erivan (the capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia) to hand point to an archæological discovery of great historical importance. This discovery may not only throw a good deal of light on the history and art of Armenia under Arshakuni (Arsacid) kings, but also lead to the exact location of the site of Artashab (Artaxata of the old Roman historians), the capital of Armenia under Arshakuni dynasty.

On January 25 last Prof. S. der Hagopian, the Keeper of the Museum of Antiquities at Erivan, found near Dovin the life-size head of a statute amid a mass of débris near a stream draining into the Arax. This statue, of whitish sandstone, bears all evidence of being the head of a king, similar to the effigy of King Tigran the Great (96-51 B.C.) as it appears on coins bearing the name of that Armenian Arshakuni king. The statue is 39 centimetres in length, broken off the body at the neck, and diagonally slashed on the left cheek up to the mouth.

At present there are two large villages in Armenia which bear the name of Dovin. The upper Dovin, north of River Arax and some twenty miles south-east of Erivan, is undoubtedly the ancient site of the capital of Persarmenia of the same name. The statue was discovered near this Dovin. The lower Dovin is a smaller village to the west, inhabited now by the Nestorian refugees from Turkey.

A. Kalantar, the President of the Armenian Antiquities Protection Committee and a well-known archæologist, carefully examined the statue and expressed the following opinion:—"The head carries a crown in the shape of a square coin. Various ornaments hanging from both sides of the crown fall down on the ears. It appears that the artist who made this monument left the orbits of the eyes empty (about six centimetres in length) and then put into the eyes valuable shining jewels. It is impossible as yet to say anything definite about the origin, the date, and the identity of the statue. But even from the first examination there is little doubt that it is an Armenian king's head. This type of crown was worn by Tigran the Great and his successors. The later Arshakuni kings maintained the tradition, and introduced small modifications in the shape of the crown. As there are little crosses among the ornaments hanging over the ears, I assume this statute to be of Christian era, belonging to one of the later Arshakuni kings. The type of cross worked on the monument was common in the fourth and fifth centuries.

"The assumption that it may belong to that period of Armenian history is the more important for us, as we possess up to now no monument whatever from the period of Christian Arshakunis (303-428 A.D.); that is why many unfounded asservations are made by archæological investigators in regard to the political relationships existing between Armenia and Sarsanid Persia.

"As a life-size portrait of an Armenian king—made in Armenia in the form of a statue—was known to us until now, the statue of Kagig I. Bagratuni (885-92 A.D.), which was discovered in 1906 at Ani by Professor N. Marr."

The Antiquities Protection Committee, in a meeting presided over by the Minister of Education, decided to carry out excavations in the neighbourhood of Dovin in order to discover the body of the statue, and perhaps many other important monuments.

A. S.

FROM MEDITERRANEAN TO CASPIAN.

On February 27, at 74, Grosvenor Street, Mrs. Patrick Ness lectured to the Central Asian Society upon her adventures along the motor-route from Beyrout to Teheran, or, rather, to Enzeli on the Caspian. A fascinating narrative was illustrated with plentiful slides both of the Arabian Desert and of the Persian country beyond Khanikin. The contrast between the motor service from Beyrout to Baghdad and that existing in Persia was humorously emphasised, the difference not being due solely to the distinction between a Buick and a Ford.

The Hungarian Archæological Society has elected Sir Aurel Stein, the archæological explorer of Central Asia, an honorary member. Sir Aurel Stein was born in Budapest in 1862.

M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Commissioner, has returned to Constantinople to resume the negotiations for a Treaty of friendship between Bulgaria and Turkey. The outstanding question for settlement is that of the minorities.

Brigands have captured a party of Greek sportsmen hunting big game in the Katerina district of Macedonia. The party included Professor Photinos, of the University of Athens, and M. Stais, a former Royalist Minister. All have been released except one, who has been detained for ransom.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Indian Budget.

In introducing the Indian Budget Sir Basil Blackett had the satisfaction of being able to announce that there was a surplus of Rs. 4 crores on the past year, or £3,000,000, instead of the estimated surplus of Rs. 18 lakhs, or £135,000. A year ago the Budget just balanced, and the present result is a measure of the improvement that has taken place in India's financial situation. Up to the past two years there had been a long series of deficits, amounting in the aggregate to a very large sum, and with a view to the solution of this problem, the Retrenchment Committee over which Lord Inchcape presided was set up to go over the expenditure. The work of this committee finds its reflection in the present surplus, while the effect of the series of good monsoons which India has been fortunate in having has been to provide a solid basis on which to build up a sound financial position. India, in short, is now definitely on the upgrade, and the favourable economic outlook will not be slow in having a marked influence on the trade situation.

Budget Features.

Turning to the Budget for the coming year, it is interesting to note that there is no necessity for any increase in taxation, as a surplus is anticipated of Rs. 3.24 crores, of which, Sir Basil thinks, Rs. 2.68 may be regarded as a recurrent surplus. He pointed out that the Government had repeatedly said that their financial policy was directed to the reduction and eventual extinction of provincial contributions at the earliest possible date. The surplus does not include the Rs. 63 lakhs from Bengal which has been remitted, and this remission is to be continued for three years more, while it is proposed to reduce other provincial contributions by Rs. 2½ crores, giving Madras a remission of Rs. 126 lakhs, the United Provinces one of Rs. 56 lakhs, the Punjab one of 65 lakhs, and Burma one of 7 lakhs. These remissions leave a balance of Rs. 6,75 crores, which will have to be dealt with before there can be any question of the reduction of general taxation.

Rupee Exchange.

In the course of his speech, Sir Basil dealt at length with the question of rupee exchange. He said that he had no intention of prophesying or promising any particular rates, but they were compelled to adopt some definite figure, and as for nearly half the year the exchange had been fairly steady in the neighbourhood of 1s. 6d., he proposed to take that as the average rate for the Budget. He pointed out that natural causes connected with world movements of exchange and prices had recently tended to raise the exchange value of the rupee, and he asked why the taxpayer should be arbitrarily deprived of this advantage, which had come from natural causes. "Is it not better," he added, "to let natural causes continue to operate as the Government of India propose, and leave the final decision of the ratio to be determined by the Currency Committee in the light of the further experience which a few more months will give us, when, in addition to dealing with the wider questions which must come before them, the Committee can finally fix the ratio at whatever figure may be most truly in the interest not of this or that section, not of producer or consumer or taxpayer considered in isolation, but in the best interests of India as a whole?"

Manchester Ship Canal Company.

Manchester can claim to have been "made" before its Ship Canal was built, but there can be no question of the value that that vast enterprise has been to the city. In view of the trade between it and the Near and Middle East, the report of the annual general meeting which appears on another page is of special interest. The chairman drew attention to the saving effected on direct shipments of cotton and other Eastern products, and it is satisfactory to find that the cotton imports for 1924 exceeded those of 1923 by over 40 per cent., the shipments of Egyptian cotton to Manchester being well ahead of those to Liverpool.

British Trade Corporation.

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the British Trade Corporation for the year ended December 31. There was a profit on the year of £75,710, which, with the sum of £10,480 brought forward, gives a total of £86,190. From this £35,000 has been utilised to write down investments, leaving £51,190. The directors propose the payment of the fixed dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares, leaving £21,190 to be carried forward

The Rubber Position.

The rubber position grows more interesting. After a dull period in the commodity market, brisk buying has been resumed, and during the last two weeks the London stocks have again been rapidly depleted, and now stand at only 23,255 tons. At this rate they will be of negligible proportions by the time the next increase in the exportable percentage is made. So far the share market has failed to react to the commodity movements, but if, as seems at least probable, there is a further rise in the price of rubber, it is inevitable that values must appreciate. Still, with rubber anything may happen.

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THE COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES OF THE YEMEN.

An address on "The Resources and Commercial Possibilities of the Yemen" was given at the London Chamber of Commerce on February 24 by Lieut.-Col. H. F. Jacob, C.S.I.

Mr. R. L. Barclay, C.B.E. (Chairman of the Council of the Chamber), who presided, mentioned that the Yemen was an independent province in South-west Arabia. For years it had been administered by the Turks, who collected just sufficient revenue to pay for administration charges. He believed that in the Yemen there were great commercial possibilities, although they had thought of it as a desert because it was so marked on the map.

Col. Jacob began with a short *résumé* of the political situation. For many years the Yemen had been almost a sealed book, and its ruler, the Imam, was scarcely known, and but little discussed. This was due to the jealousy of the Turks, who had administered this province during the last phase of their rule, from 1873 to the Armistice of 1918. The Yemen was, roughly, in the south-west corner of Arabia, and its metes and bounds were not yet wholly fixed. It included Nejran to its north and Marib, the headquarters of the Queen of Sheba, to its east, while westwards it was bounded by the Tihama or Netherlands, flanking the Red Sea. The Yemen geographically comprised the Province of Asir, with its capital in the highlands at Abha, and such ports as Medi and Jezan, etc. The capital town—Abha—was in the hands of Ibn Saud of Nejd, the potentate who was fighting with the King of Hejaz. The ports of Asir, and a few inland towns were held by the Idrisi ruler, who established his authority there so late as 1907, and in 1920 took over the port of Hodeida. The Imam was Lord of the Yemen proper, including the highlands and the major part of the lowlands, travelling south till they met the confines of our Aden Protectorate. On retiring from the Service in 1921, Col. Jacob said he at once looked to the Yemen and its trading possibilities. The Imam had long wished to open up his country, but was unable to do so so long as the Turkish incubus rested there. In 1923 the Imam asked Col. Jacob to his capital of San'a with the express object of discussing trade, and throughout the whole of his stay he was received with the utmost courtesy and cordiality.

The Yemen Col. Jacob described as "par excellence," the most fertile tract in all Arabia. The population exceeds five million, and large and flourishing towns are dotted all over the country. Cultivation is intense; wheat, barley, and millet crops abound, and there are large and wholly cultivated plateaux in the Upper Yemen. San'a, a walled city with eight gates, lies in a fertile plain at an altitude of 7,260 feet, above sea-level, and has a population of 45,000. Here one found all the English vegetables and magnificent potatoes. Most of the English fruits grow there, and there are twenty-four distinct varieties of grapes. Referring to the coffee territory, he said that if Mocca coffee has now temporarily yielded to the Kenya product, and if the berries of Costa Rica and Santos are now more in prominence, this was due to the Turkish régime, to the war, and to the necessary interval that must pass before the Imam can consolidate his domains after the Turkish exit. There is also a great future for cotton, for apart from irrigation there is a three-months' monsoon, and where millet grows in a marked degree of excellence cotton is a promising crop. Of minerals there are gold, iron and coal to be exploited. The Turks had reports of the existence of mines, and offered the Arabs sums of money to disclose the sources, but the Arabs, who were tired of Turkish over-rule, have refused to divulge them. As a pledge for the successful exploitation of the resources of the country, Col. Jacob mentioned that the Imam is a man 55 years of age, energetic, exercising an enlightened rule, and starting various reforms. He is a deservedly popular ruler, and what is a most important point, his country is secure internally. The telegraph is established, and connects all the large towns with San'a, and of late wireless has been introduced. The country is civilised in many respects. At San'a there is a spacious barracks for the training of the Imam's troops, and a powder factory is under construction outside the town walls. This state of security is a strong asset, giving great promise for trade. The roads in many parts are quite good, and their amelioration is not confronted by any topographical or engineering difficulties. The route from Hodeida to San'a runs by the Turkish military road, and along it the Turks before the war had planned a railroad, but peculation and inefficiency thwarted the construction. The Imam was fascinated when informed of the possibilities of railway transport in his country, but Col. Jacob expressed the opinion that the first essential is to improve the roads and to introduce some form of motor-traction. There is no stint of labour. All the labour used by the port of Aden on the wharves and coal stacks and in the various godowns comes from the Imam's side of the water, as do the majority of the firemen sought by the shipping agencies. The present means of conveyance is by camel, mule, and, to a small extent, by human porterage. Hodeida, the nearest port to San'a and its key, is temporarily in the hands of the Imam's rival, the Idrisi, but there are many possible openings below this port, and the Imam is considering the work of construction here. At the present time the Imam of the Yemen is patiently awaiting the conclusion of a long-discussed treaty with the British Government. With a stable Government now in office, and Mr. Amery, the sympathetic and far-seeing Secretary of State, in charge of affairs, Col. Jacob thought that the slight which the Imam's prestige had received through the Home Government allowing the entrance into Hodeida of the Idrisi chieftain would be removed. So soon as the Imam has convincing proof of the Government's goodwill by the transfer of this important port to its rightful owner he will be able and willing to open up his country to the mutual benefit of both contracting parties. The Idrisi chief's country had also commodities to offer, such as oil, hides and skins, pearls, rock-salt, and some

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mines inland, but the country is in a state of political turmoil and transition. In answer to questions, Col. Jacob mentioned that some of the agricultural implements in use in the Yemen were rather primitive, but the Imam had expressed a desire for motor-tractors to plough the land. Ali the coffee tracts were in the Imam's territory, but the greatest potential commercial possibilities were in respect of cotton, of which at present an inferior type was grown on a very small scale. The country was solvent.

THE IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION.

The ninth *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition, which was opened on Monday at Olympia by Princess Marie Louise, promises to be an even greater attraction than any of the previous exhibitions of the series. There are people who, as a general rule, avoid exhibitions, but most of them make a point of seeing the Ideal Home Exhibition, and this inconsistency is easily understandable, for the *Daily Mail* undertaking is a superlative attraction, teeming with interest and new ideas. One can go from end to end of it without being wearied by an endless series of stands, for all the way it is novelty, and the purpose of the Exhibition itself is sufficient to make it a never-ending attraction, for everyone wishes to see the things that go to make an ideal home, even if at the moment a home of any kind that an Englishman can call his own is out of the question for very many people.

First among the features of the Exhibition must be put the steel houses—the hope of so many thousands as a solution of the housing difficulty—and probably the crowds who go to Olympia will make them their immediate Mecca. The houses are arranged in an admirable setting. Through the side hall ripples a little river spanned by three charming bridges, and beyond the village green are the houses, calling forth ideas of life in the most pleasant surroundings. Hard by is the Queen's Dolls' House, placed in a structure designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. In the central hall are several rows of the adjuncts that go towards a perfect domestic existence, and here the housewife can well pass many enthralling hours. Beyond this hall is the supreme triumph of the Exhibition —the series of glorious gardens calculated to entrance everyone who has anything of the gardener in him, and to make even those pause who do not care for these things, if such there be. It is a veritable horticultural paradise, a place for the dreamer, where most pleasant imaginings can be conjured up. One could wish that those who deal with the public parks would come to Olympia and imbibe the lessons to be learnt from these charmingly contrived gardens.

Another feature of the Exhibition of special interest is the inclusion of a number of exhibits from other countries. In the gallery of the new hall is a stand devoted to Palestine arts and crafts, where are to be seen a choice selection of mother-of-pearl ornaments, Jerusalem pottery, and blue Hebron glass. Near by is the stand of the Egyptian Produce and Industries, Ltd., showing a most attractive range of the products of Egypt, such as donkey boy cloth, leather goods, mummy bead necklaces, Assiout shawls, and brasswork. There are also interesting exhibits of Armenian handicrafts, such as hand-woven table covers and rugs. At another stand examples of Burmese handicrafts are displayed, such as teak carving, bags and umbrellas.

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General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows, under date March 2 :—

Currants.—A very unsettled and extremely difficult state of affairs has prevailed, and in considering the influences affecting the market, the dominating feature has undoubtedly been the weakness of the Greek exchange, which made it quite impossible to prevent values falling. On the whole, prices have stood up remarkably well, and with the exception of pressure in one or two directions, holders prefer to await a renewal of country activity, although willing to make some concession to meet buyers. The feeling is that with any improvement of the drachma values should appreciate. Business has mostly centred round the lower grades, Calamata and Pyrgos selling at 35s. to 36s., cleaned Amalias and Patras at 37s. to 40s.

Gulf.—An arrival of excellent quality per Flaminian, cleaned and uncleaned, changed hands at 43s. to 45s.

Vostizza.—Some inquiry for best quality Shade Dried. Sales were made at 51s. to 54s., ordinary grades being slow of sale at 45s. to 46s.

Quotations.—Calamata and Pyrgos, 35s. to 36s.; Calamata and Pyrgos cleaned, 36s. to 37s.; Amalias and Patras, cleaned, 37s. to 40s.; Gulf, 40s. to 43s.; Vostizza, 46s.; Vostizza, Shade Dried, 50s. to 54s. Arrivals were per Destro, Clyne Rock, and Dido, totalling 800 tons

Valencia Raisins.—A few quarter-boxes were disposed of at 36s. to 40s.

Sultanas.—There has been a fairly steady trade passing during the month, and while there is no evidence of a marked recovery in prices, certainly an increase in trading has been noticeable, and more interest has been displayed by the buyers. Business done was chiefly in the lower qualities at 49s. to 50s., and some trade was possible in Cleaned, 55s. to 60s., Good, 62s. to 65s., and Fine, 70s. to 75s. Greeks have been sold at 56s. to 60s. Australians in active demand. Stocks are now practically cleared. Dullest colour sold at 47s. to 48s., better grades 50s., few 52s.

Figs.—Small boxes have quietly been disposed of at 40s. Bags Naturals moving slowly, Good 29s., genuine 32s. to 33s.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £	25 22½	296-300
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	297-300
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.76-24.77
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5 31/32-1s. 6 1/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.00-95.10
Bucharest	Lei to £	25. 2½	965-975
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	343-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5 31/32-1s. 6 1/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	940-950
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 76⅛-4.76¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	93.80-93.90
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	160½-160¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	118 85-.95
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	655-661
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.75-34 00
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25 22½	24.70-24 85

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BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		£ s. d.
Capital—		
Authorised—		
700,000 Shares of £10 each	£7,000,000 0 0	
200,000 Shares of £2 10s. each	500,000 0 0	
1,000,000 "A" Shares of £1 each	1,000,000 0 0	
	£8,500,000 0 0	
Issued—		
200,000 Shares of £2 10s. each, fully paid	£500,000 0 0	
500,000 "A" Shares of £1 each, fully paid	500,000 0 0	
		1,000,000 0 0
Reserve against Shareholding interests in Subsidiary Companies and other Investments		325,000 0 0
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		1,019,550 7 8
Acceptances on Account of Customers		1,225,265 14 1
Profit and Loss Account, Balance as per Account		51,192 3 4
NOTE.—There is a Contingent Liability £182,351 13s. 7d. in respect of Guarantees, and of £43,056 15s. 0d. in respect of Bills re-discounted.		
		£3,621,008 5 1

ASSETS.		£ s. d.
Cash in hand and at Bankers		148,169 5 5
Money at Call and Short Notice		395,000 0 0
Government Securities at Market Value		403,875 0 0
Investments at Under Cost (Capital uncalled on these Investments, £2,625.)	£272,384 19 2	
National Bank of Turkey, 97,060 Shares of £10 each, £2 10s. paid at cost	243,744 11 9	
		516,129 10 11
Bills Discounted, Loans, Advances, and Sundry Debtors		772,067 5 2
Liability of Customers for Acceptances as per contra		1,225,265 14 1
Premises, London and Branches		121,031 6 8
Furniture, London and Branches, less Depreciation		6,535 2 1
Stamp Duty on unissued Capital		18,750 0 0
Adjustment of Current Accounts with Branches between 30th September and 31st December, 1924		14,185 0 9
FARINGDON, W. H. N. GOSCHEN, Directors.		
		£3,621,008 5 1

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

	£ s. d.
To amount written off for depreciation of Investments	35,000 0 0
,, Balance, carried to Balance-sheet	51,192 3 4
	£86,192 3 4

	£ s. d.
By Balance brought forward from last Account	10,481 5 6
,, Profit for the year, after meeting Current Expenses, including Salaries, Rent, and other charges and making provision for bad and doubtful debts	75,710 17 10
	£86,192 3 4

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

To the Shareholders of the BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

We have audited the above Balance-sheet with the books of the Corporation and with the Returns from the Branches signed by the Local Management, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Branches have been incorporated in the Balance-sheet as at the 30th September last.

We report that, in our opinion, the Balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Corporation's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books in London and the Returns from the Branches.

5, London Wall Buildings,
London, E.C.2, 18th February, 1925.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS, AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Auditors.

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW P. AND O. STEAMER.

The Razmak's Trials.

The P. and O. Company's new s.s. Razmak ran a series of successful official trials on February 26 in Belfast Lough, and was taken over from the builders, Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., by Mr. Frank Ritchie (joint managing director with Lord Inchcape) on behalf of the P. and O. Company.

The Razmak has been especially designed for continuous service in Indian waters, and will be employed on fortnightly trips each way between Bombay and Aden, taking, on the Aden-Bombay voyage, mails and passengers for India by transshipment from the outward-bound fortnightly Australia steamer, and transferring, on the Bombay-Aden trip, to the homeward Australia steamer, mails and passengers from India for Egypt, Marseilles, and London. She will alternate on this line with the fortnightly direct steamers in each direction between London and Bombay, thus maintaining the weekly frequency of the Indian mail service.

Her principal dimensions are: length, 518 ft. 6 ins.; breadth, 63 ft.; moulded depth, 37 ft. 9 ins; she has a straight stem and elliptical stern, and is fitted with two sets of quadruple expansion engines of the balanced type developing 12,000 i.h.p., and burning oil fuel with forced draught under Scotch boilers.

Accommodation is provided on the bridge, upper and main decks for 142 first and 142 second-class passengers, and the dining saloons are arranged to seat simultaneously the whole of her passengers. The first saloon music-room, lounge, smoking-rooms, and verandah café are placed forward amidships on the bridge deck, while towards the after end of the same deck are the second music saloon, verandah, and smoking-rooms. The decorative and colour schemes of the Razmak's public rooms have been designed from suggestions by Lady Inchcape and the Hon. Elsie Mackay, and carried out under their supervision. On the "upper" deck, beneath, the forward three-quarters of the deck are occupied by large first-class cabins arranged on the tandem principle, approximately every fourth one being a single-berth cabin. The first-class accommodation includes four pairs of cabines de luxe, each arranged for one or two passengers, and each including a private bathroom. The after parts of the upper and main decks are occupied by second saloon cabins for two or three passengers, with one or two four-berth cabins to meet passengers' occasional especial needs in this respect. Amidships, within both the upper and main deck ranges of cabins, the provision of bathroom and lavatory accommodation is on a generous scale. Midway on the main deck is the second-class dining saloon, extending through the width of the ship, naturally lighted by sixteen large square windows, with tables arranged for large or smaller parties. Forward on the same deck, beyond the kitchens and service rooms, is the first dining saloon, seating at tables for two, four, or more passengers, 146 persons. This saloon also extends through the entire width of the vessel, and derives from twenty-four windows natural light and air. The ship has been installed throughout with mechanical ventilation for use in the Tropics, and every cabin is provided with natural light and air from its own porthole. There is a separate wardrobe for each passenger, and the cabins generally are amply furnished in all other respects.

The Razmak, as Lord Rawlinson recalled on the occasion of her launching, is named after a remote Indian military station which Lord Inchcape visited during a tour of the North-West frontier at the conclusion of his work as Chairman of the Indian Retrenchment Committte. She replaces the Salsette, of 6,000 tons, which was withdrawn from the Aden-Bombay Line during the war, and which was sunk by an enemy submarine in the Channel on July 20, 1917. The Rasmak's arrival on the Aden-Bombay station simultaneously with the resumption of fortnightly sailings on the P. and O. Australia mail line is among the final steps towards restoration of the company's services to the pre-war level.

The Razmak will leave London on her maiden voyage on March 13, with passengers for Gibraltar, Marseilles, Aden, and Bombay, embarking mails and overland passengers at Marseilles a week later.

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, March 6). (For passengers sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 7).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 11).

British India Line.—S.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 14); s.s. Santhia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 7); s.s. Aviemore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 28); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, March 6); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 7).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, March 10).

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*CASTALIA, April 1. *MASSILIA, May 12.
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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Company Meeting.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL COMPANY.

Mr. Bacon's Speech.

The annual general meeting of the Manchester Ship Canal Company was held at the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester, on February 26.

Mr. W. C. Bacon, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—You have before you the report of the directors and the financial accounts for the past year, which I trust you will agree are eminently satisfactory, and that you all approve of the recommendation of your directors as to the disposal of the available balance. This is, I think, especially satisfactory when you realise that the past year has been a bad year for trade generally, and, of course, in that condition of affairs the competition with other ports is more severe. The report is so explanatory both in regard to the new works and the upkeep of the undertaking, as well as indicating the policy of the directors for the future, that it would simply be a waste of your time for me to elaborate these matters at any great length.

As stated in the report, the company have purchased a plot of land in King Street, Manchester—a splendid site, one of the best in the city—on which head offices for the company are about to be erected. It is also proposed to erect dock offices in Trafford Road, Salford, on a site of land adjoining the docks.

The net income for the year amounted to £857,739, to which must be added the balance brought forward from last year's account, £35,451, making a total income of £893,190. Deducting from this interest, rentals, and other fixed charges amounting to £425,569, there is a balance available of £467,621. Out of this £10,000 has been placed to the reserve for contingencies and repairs, and it is recommended that the following dividends should be declared: 3½ per cent on the Manchester Ship Canal Corporation preference stock; 10s. per share (5 per cent.) on preference shares; 10s. per share (5 per cent.) on ordinary shares; and that the balance, after payment of these dividends, namely £32,929, should be carried forward to the next year's account. I should mention that, including the £10,000 added during the past year, the reserve now amounts to £69,307.

I have been asked to say a word about Ellesmere Port. You will remember that three years ago we leased Ellesmere Port from the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway Company for a period of 50 years. I am glad to say that the result of the working up to the present time has given quite a nice little income from ship canal tolls which we should not otherwise have received, in addition to which the balance for the actual working at Ellesmere Port has been on the right side. The full benefit of this new venture, however, cannot be achieved until certain developments which have already been planned are carried out, and these will involve some capital expenditure. One of these I have already mentioned—the deepening of the ship canal as far as Stanlow.

As regards the question of delay to ships, there is one vexatious matter to which I made reference at the last meeting, and that is the question of the dock workers being unwilling to work more overtime, or, alternatively, night shifts, when necessary. You will remember that I stated that negotiations were then taking place with the Dock Workers' Union with this object in view, but I am sorry to say that no progress has yet been made. It is very galling when the company have incurred large capital expenditure in up-to-date works and plant of every description in order to ensure good despatch of vessels that these efforts are frequently negatived by the arbitrary limitation of overtime to three hours per night from Monday to Friday and none at all on Saturday. It very often happens that a ship is so nearly finished that two or three extra hours' work would enable her to get away promptly instead of having to wait until the next day, or possibly over the week-end. The matter is all the more unsatisfactory because such a limitation of overtime is not uniform at all the ports. I trust that the union leaders, with whom we continue to negotiate, and the men will take a wider view of this matter than they have in the past, because it is undoubtedly in the interests of the country as well as of the port to get rid of the disability. I believe it is also in the interests of the men, as vessels would return with further cargoes so much sooner, and a larger tonnage would therefore be dealt with.

The imports of all growths of cotton at the Manchester Docks last season totalled 544,796 bales, compared with 380,098 in 1922-23. The imports of American cotton showed an increase of 111,157 bales over the previous season, and of Egyptian an increase of 38,794 bales. The imports so far this season, August 1-February 20, amount to 451,638 bales, compared with 392,835 bales at the same period last season. In regard to the Egyptian imports, these are most encouraging, the shipments from Alexandria to Manchester being well ahead of Liverpool. For instance, the shipments from Alexandria to Manchester since August 1 to February 18 were 170,012 bales, whereas for Liverpool they were 151,206 bales.

In regard to American cotton, the imports into this country in recent years have been small, due to the wretched state of trade prevailing in the American section, and Manchester, along with the sister port, suffered. With the prospect of improving trade, and in spite of the curtailment of production on the part of the mills which still continues, there is a more hopeful feeling, and therefore we look for larger shipments of American cotton direct to Manchester, though this must largely depend upon the spinners, and we are doing all we can to make them realise that unless they insist, at the time of making their contracts, upon the cotton coming by direct steamer to Manchester, the cotton will not come to this port, and in that way they will not be able to secure a financial saving of roughly 5s. per ton in the case of a mill in Oldham by importing via Manchester as against importing via Liverpool. At a time when the American spinning section of the trade has, and continues to experience, a difficult period, and when there is a general outcry on the part of industry for the lowering of transport costs, the mills using American cotton have not taken the maximum advantage of the financial savings which they could effect by having their cotton direct to Manchester.

By the spinner who uses American cotton showing a little more enterprise in this direction, there would be no question of steamers making several calls, but they would come direct to Manchester. In this respect, however, there has been more encouragement latterly. We are also making greater efforts to secure greater quantities of Indian cotton shipped direct to our port, and with the assistance of the Royton spinners we are hopeful of obtaining larger imports of this growth. In addition, we are anxious that Manchester should handle other growths of cotton, and in this respect we recently received our first shipment of Turkish cotton, and there is a movement on foot that there shall be direct shipments of Brazilian cotton. In regard to the Empire cottons, the claims of Manchester are being kept to the fore.

Frequent opportunities are now available for merchants interested in the East Indian trade to have their shipments direct to Manchester by the Ellerman-Hall line from Bombay and Karachi. Large consignments of cotton, grain, cotton seed, and manganese ore have already been imported, and the Manchester Cotton Association is interesting itself in this service, which it is of opinion will be of great advantage to the cotton industry in particular.

I should like to remind our wool importers that Manchester is the nearest port to Bradford and other woollen manufacturing towns in Yorkshire, the distance from the Manchester Docks by rail being 43 miles, compared with 61 miles from Hull and 70 miles from Liverpool. This advantage is reflected in the cost of transit from the ship's side to warehouses in Yorkshire towns, and Manchester continues to be the cheapest port for this great industry. The handling facilities and warehouses are peculiarly adapted for the wool traffic, and the regular services of steamers from Australian ports should attract a considerable volume of this business.

I should like to say a word about future prospects as I view them.

Now that we have recovered our stride and the tonnage nearly reached the 1913 level, we have every hope that we shall retain the trade, and not be satisfied only with that, but use every effort to increase it, as I feel justified in saying that, having regard to the works we have in hand, we shall be able easily to deal (without fear of congestion) with a very much larger traffic than we presently handle. We all know that except in specialised trades business is still bad all round, and unemployment, although decreasing gradually, is still a problem which causes great anxiety to all classes of the community. Shipowners are of necessity suffering from this depression in trade, and, although a gleam of light is seen in certain shipping routes, mostly long distance, generally freights are low and owners are having an unprofitable time.

Notwithstanding these depressed conditions, the results of the past year are, as I have already stated, full of encouragement for the future, so far as the Port of Manchester is concerned. There are, of course, difficulties ahead, but I hope that the year 1925 will be satisfactory, not only for the Port of Manchester, but for the whole trade of the district.

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Near East Markets.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following particulars are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended January 15 :—

On December 26 snow fell almost over the whole of Iraq. This is a most unusual occurrence in the Baghdad district and south of it. The only other records of snow since 1888 are light falls in 1898, 1907, and 1911. The snow was accompanied by a frosty spell. These severe frosts, which continued into January, were badly felt by most plant life, and citrous fruits in particular were damaged. Shade trees planted in gardens have apparently suffered badly, but the older trees will recover, though a very large proportion of seedling nursery stock has been killed outright. The effect of the frosts on insect and fungoid pests is, however, extremely beneficial.

The seasonal rains which commenced in Middle Iraq on the 11th instant enabled cultivators to get ahead with their sowings of winter cereals. Large areas had already been sown in Northern Iraq, but the heavy falls of snow towards the end of December put an end to agricultural activity in that area. "Daim" cereals were sown extensively in the lower "Daim" areas during the month. Early sown wheat and barley germinated well. Bad attacks of "rust" were noticed in many cases, but the cold weather improved them considerably, and though slight frosting was reported, they may be expected to do well. It is reported from Northern Iraq that the scarcity of seed is adversely influencing the areas sown, but in Middle Iraq the continued high price of grain seems to be stimulating the cultivators to greater efforts than usual.

Owing to the heavy rain and snow, sowings were completely interrupted during the latter half of December, and recommenced only in January. With the first rains the price of cereals went down a little, but hardened again with the advent of the cold spell. Irrigation water is reported as plentiful from all districts, but owing to universal rains little need for it was felt.

The condition of stock, which was previously reported to be below average due to scanty fodder, has been very adversely affected by the cold weather. Deaths of all stock, particularly sheep, from cold and exposure, are reported from all districts. The condition of the flocks sent out for desert grazing would appear from the reports to hand to be particularly bad, and the mortality heavy.

The last pickings of cotton were taken during December. In many cases these were spoiled by rain. Sheep have been turned in to the plantations to graze, and this has been of very great value in view of the extreme shortness of fodder. The deliveries of cotton to the ginnery reached a total equivalent to 2,150 bales of ginned cotton by the end of December as compared with the equivalent of 1,100 bales up to the same date last year. Cultivators are already preparing land for next season's sowing. In particular, ploughing on a fairly extensive scale has been started by the concessionaires now operating on the Mahrut canal.

The varietal tests of cotton at the Experimental Farm gave their last pickings during December. Yields varied from a rate of 1,978 lb. per acre to a rate of 1,350 lb. per acre, according to variety.

Autumn sown flax germinated very satisfactorily, and appears to have withstood the frosts well. The retting of last year's experimental crop has now been completed, and scutching is in progress. The flax from the previous year's experiments was bulked and sent to England for sale. A fairly satisfactory report has been received. This flax was very mixed in quality, but it is estimated to be worth £.90 per ton.

The anti-locust campaign in the Mosul vilayet progresses satisfactorily. The chief breeding grounds are now localised. Locust committees have been formed, and egg-buying has been started. Ploughing up of lands known to contain eggs was interfered with by snow. The cold spell, however, has certainly had a very beneficial effect in destroying large quantities of eggs.

Orders have been taken by the silk inspectors for imported eggs, and a number of landowners have put in hand mulberry orchards with a view to developing silk work in the future.

The Entomologist continued his observations of the spotted boll-worm of cotton. On plants expressly left over for observation purposes this pest continued to feed. The intensity of the attack on these plants remained fairly steady until December 25. Between this date and December 28 it was found that 82 per cent. of the worms had perished from cold. Between December 28 and January 3, although a large number of dead worms were found, no single living worm or pupa could be discovered. It would appear certain that this pest, therefore, has no hibernation period, but breeds continuously, and that, in consequence, it suffers a high mortality during the winter. After an abnormally cold spell such as has been experienced, we may, therefore, expect a particularly slight attack from the pest next year.

The July to December, 1924, exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,040 tons, and of barley 25,645 tons, total 26,685 tons, as compared with 131,130 tons exported during the same period last year. The August to December, 1924, exports of dates from Iraq were 134,871 tons, valued at Rs. 1,75,00,903, as compared with 97,382 tons, valued at Rs. 1,26,98,737 for the corresponding season last year. The July to December, 1924, exports of wool from Iraq were 13,849 tons, as compared with 3,174 tons exported during the same season last year.

Commander Charles Worthington Craven, R.N., who has been a special director in charge of the Vickers Works at Barrow-in-Furness, has been elected on the Board of Vickers, Limited.

The electric winding engine jointly exhibited by Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, and Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., at Wembley last year has been purchased by the Burradon and Coxlodge Coal Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne, for their Weetslade pit. This winder was the subject of considerable interest at the Vickers stand, where it was shown in operation.

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HEAVY GREEK DEMAND FOR TIMBER.

Greek lumber imports in 1924 were stimulated by a considerable building boom, and during the latter half of the year the market was unusually active. Prospects for 1925 are said to be bright. Many thousand houses are now under construction and more will be built, as the housing crisis continues acute (says an American Consular report). Large quantities of lumber are in immediate demand—even though most Greek houses are of stone and cement. The recent conclusion of the £10,000,000 refugee loan largely solves the refugee question. In connection with refugee housing operations considerable quantities of the lower grades of lumber will be needed, most of which will be purchased from European sources, especially Roumania, on account of lower prices and transportation costs.

A considerable number of more sumptuous residences are being built in Athens and its suburbs, and in the neighbouring summer resorts, although the major portion of the building constructed in Greece employ the cheaper varieties of lumber. The furnishings and fittings of these costly houses require the more valuable woods—*i.e.*, hardwood flooring, walnut, mahogany, etc., for which the improved demand for American lumber felt during the latter part of 1924 has developed.

Greek lumber imports in 1924, it is estimated, will total between 106,000,000 and 118,720,000 board feet; the Ministry of National Economy advises that these imports to November 1 totalled 89,156,176 board feet, valued at $3,573,000. Prices during the year have risen about 15 per cent. on an average, and are still increasing. Approximately 85 per cent. of the lumber imported is for house construction and the remaining 15 per cent. for furniture manufacture. A very small quantity is also imported for shipbuilding purposes, amongst which is some American southern pine merchantable timber, which is resawn for the construction of small boats, etc.

The principal competitor of the United States in the Greek lumber market is Sweden. Low-grade stock from that country has also competed seriously with Roumanian lumber during 1924. Yugoslav lumber exports to Greece have fallen off, owing to the higher prices asked in comparison with the Roumanian quotations. While stocks of imported lumber are large, building is proceeding uninterruptedly; and, although dealers are slow in placing new business, the outlook is encouraging.

TEA CULTIVATION IN PERSIA.

The Secretary in charge of Commercial Affairs at the British Legation, Teheran, informs the Department of Overseas Trade that, according to Teheran Press reports, the Persian Government is studying the possibility of increasing tea cultivation in the regions bordering upon the Caspian Sea, and the Dutch Government is being approached with a view to the engagement of a "specialist" in tea cultivation.

It will be known that the small quantity of tea at present cultivated in the Lehijan district was originated by the importation of tea plants from India, but so far as can be ascertained, it is difficult to increase the present area for lack of suitable shrubs. The tea at present sold is expensive (5s. to 10s. per lb.), but is much prized for its flavour, which somewhat resembles that of China tea. The tea is pale in colour.

The British Representative at Athens reports that the Greek Government propose to postpone the introduction of the new Customs Tariff until May 1.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EMPIRE COTTON-GROWING CORPORATION.

A meeting of the Administrative Council of the Corporation was held in London on February 25. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Lord Derby, the chair was taken by Mr. R. H. Jackson.

The Chairman reported that, with a few exceptions, the bodies empowered by the Charter to appoint members to represent them on the Council had re-appointed those gentlemen who had represented them for the past three years. The new nominees were as follows:—Mr. J. E. Ashworth to succeed Mr. J. S. Addison as one of the representatives of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association; Lieut.-Comm. F. W. Astbury, M.P., to succeed Mr. Swallow as the representative of the Allied Association of Bleachers, Dyers, Printers, and Finishers; Mr. J. H. Dimond as the representative of the Government of the Union of South Africa; Dr. Ernest Goulding as the representative of the Imperial Institute; and Mr. G. B. Zochonis as a representative of the British Cotton Growing Association.

Mr. R. H. Jackson was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Arthur Foster was elected Vice-Chairman, both to hold office for three years.—The following gentlemen were co-opted members of the Administrative Council:—Mr. J. S. Addison, Dr. W. L. Balls, Mr. J. Bell, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Mr. J. Crinion, Mr. T. Garnett, the Hon. Bernard Rollo, Lord Stanley, Mr. J. M. Thomas, Mr. W. J. Tout, Mr. R. Waddington, and the Presidents of the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations. The members of the Executive Committee, other than those representing the Government Departments, tendered their resignation under By-Law 27, and, being eligible, were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. The report of the Executive Committee on the work carried out during the past three months was received and adopted. It was decided that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Thursday, May 21.

At the close of the formal business the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, spoke on the tour through Eastern Africa of the Parliamentary Commission, of which he was Chairman. Mr. Ormsby-Gore summarised the cotton-growing possibilities of the various countries that were visited by the Commission, and pointed out that the provision of increased transport facilities was the key to increased cotton production in Eastern Africa. At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ormsby-Gore was passed for his very interesting address.

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that Steaua Romana Well No. 14 Runcu is still in eruption and producing 120 tons a day.

According to the *Cyprus Agricultural Journal*, the cereal production in the island last year was as follows (in kilos):—Wheat, 1,851,000; barley, 1,695,000; oats, 205,000; vetches, 165,000, favetta, 30,000; vicos, 80; rye, 40.

Mr. E. Harland Hutchinson, who has for many years specialised in burning coal in pulverised form, has accepted an important executive position with Vickers and International Combustion Engineering, of Africa House, Kingsway, W.C.2, owners of the well-known Lopulco Patented system of pulverised fuel firing. He will have charge of developments of the firm's interests in the Dominions and Colonies, and is shortly proceeding to Australia via the United States of America and Canada.

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

Good Inquiry for Cloth.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ending February 28 states:—

The past week has not been an encouraging one for this market. For cloth there has been a well-spread inquiry of good dimensions, but, seeing that the bulk of the negotiations prove fruitless, it would appear that merchants abroad either think present prices too high for the consumer to pay or have no faith that they will be maintained. The recent rise in raw cotton places many producers who hold stocks in the position of being able to quote rates slightly lower than those which would be justified on the basis of present quotations, and it is thought that this concession has been granted in many cases in order to secure immediate business.

Yarn.—Nominally quotations of American yarns have had to be advanced owing to dearer raw cotton. Actually, however, it has not been practicable, except in very isolated cases, to secure this advance. Operations have been very irregular, but, on the whole, it appears doubtful whether the output has been cleared. As regards Egyptian spinnings, a somewhat better state of affairs has prevailed, particularly in medium counts.

Cloth.—As already mentioned, the amount of inquiry has been disproportionate to the business booked. India still maintains, for her, only a very modest activity, but possibly a little more has been done for China than recently. Nothing notable has transpired with regard to Egypt, the Near East, or other markets.

Raw Cotton.—American has maintained the strength of the last week or two, and quotations are roughly ¼d. per lb. higher. There has been a fair demand for cotton on the spot in Liverpool, and for the higher qualities prices are very firm. Fluctuations in Egyptian have not been quite so violent, but the market is still far from steady. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 13.94; Egyptian fully good fair, 34.90.

A Reuter message from Berlin states that in view of the present political tension between Germany and Roumania, the Berlin banks have issued a joint declaration to the effect that they are unable to assume responsibility for any damage to their clients resulting therefrom, especially from the confiscation by Roumania of the credits which the banks have opened for their clients with Roumanian banks.

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PALESTINE'S BUDGET SURPLUS.

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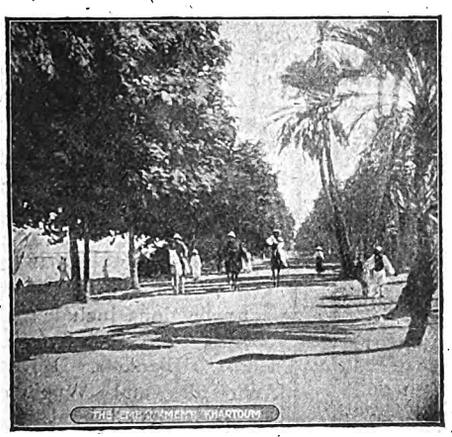

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No. 722—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Palestine Paying Its Way.

Our Jerusalem Correspondent, in a letter published in this issue, sends the interesting and important information that for the financial year ending January 31, 1925, the Palestine Administration shows a surplus balance of over half a million pounds. The British public has become so accustomed to listening to jeremiads over Palestine, and its expense to the British Treasury, that it has almost lost sight of the possibility of the country's paying its way. No doubt there is still a substantial debt scored up against the Mandated Territory, but it does not by any means represent wholly unproductive expenditure. If a balance on the right side is registered this year, there is no reason why it should not be repeated; the more so if there is now a better prospect for floating a loan for a much-needed harbour project.

The Kurdish Revolt.

The Kurdish revolt is running a rather obscure course, but there can be no doubt as to the effect it has had in Turkey. The Ministry of Fethi Bey has fallen for reasons that have not been divulged, but would seem to be connected with the proclamation of martial law, and Ismet Pasha is again Prime Minister. Feeling in Angora and Constantinople has been profoundly stirred, but outside the ranks of the Popular Party there is no clear understanding why it was considered necessary to replace Fethi Bey. The steps taken by him to deal with the outbreak do not at present appear to have been materially modified by the new Government, which will also be handicapped by geographical and weather conditions in bringing military pressure to bear upon the Kurds. In the meantime Angora has allowed itself to be obsessed by the belief that the republican system is in danger, and Ismet Pasha has been accorded exceptional powers for the protection of the State. Once again the Republic is shown to be a plant of very tender growth that has to be carefully watched and shielded. If it enjoys the popular support that is claimed for it, it would be thought that nothing happening in Kurdistan could affect the stability of the new régime. The few voices raised against a policy of panic, however, carried no weight in the Assembly, and it is to be feared that the spirit in which the rising is being met does not augur well for the adoption of practical methods for a satisfactory settlement of the Kurdish question when once the outbreak has been quelled.

Protecting the Republic.

Acting under the stimulus of the revolt in Kurdistan, the new Government of Ismet Pasha is determined to run no risks if measures to be taken to safeguard the Republic can avoid them. In addition to the specially constituted Tribunals of Independence, which will act as Courts-Martial, no less than eight publications in Constantinople and the provinces have been suspended. The strongest champion of the liberty of the Press would be hard put to it to defend all that appears in Constantinople newspapers; but we could wish that the Angora Government felt surer of itself than is suggested by its sensitiveness to Press criticism. There is much to be said for the contention that Turkey's most imperious need is economic reconstruction, and that for this purpose freedom from political unrest is necessary. In a message to the nation the President of the Republic implies that the new powers of the Government are to be used only for the purpose of preserving order and tranquillity. This at best, however, is merely a negative policy, and leaves untouched the problem of mobilising in harmonious agreement all that is best in the nation for the furtherance of economic reconstruction. It would be interesting to have an analysis of the support accorded to the Government and of the forces that are inclined to criticise it. The outside world has little to guide it in forming judgment beyond the fact that Constantinople, the first city of the Republic and the centre of the country's trade, is on one side, and Angora, a small inland town with practically no trade or industries to its credit, and deriving such importance as it has solely from its selection as the capital, is on the other. The suggested analysis could show how far a majority vote in the Assembly represented the business and intellectual strength of Turkey or whether there is any ground for Constantinople's contention that its interests are being subordinated to the ill-informed political theories of inexperienced backwoodsmen.

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The Powers and Turkey.

The British, French, and Italian Governments have decided to revive the status of Ambassador for their representatives in Turkey, and Sir Robert Lindsay becomes the first British post-War Ambassador. His French colleague will be M. Albert Sarraud, formerly Governor-General of Indo-China and Minister for the Colonies in 1922. The post was offered to M. Franklin-Bouillon, who declined it; his appointment would not have met with unanimous approval in French circles in the Near East, where the opinion is strongly held, at least by an influential section, that the policy identified with the name of M. Franklin-Bouillon neither impressed the Turks nor redounded to the prestige of France. M. Herriot is known to have called upon French representatives to make the *entente* between France and Great Britain rather more of a factor in the Near East than it has been hitherto. Left to their own devices, many French officials seem to have been under the impression that they would commend themselves more to their Government if they pursued a policy of intrigue against or open hostility to British interests in the East. M. Herriot's good intentions would virtually have been stultified by the appointment of M. Franklin-Bouillon as French Ambassador to Turkey; even as things are, these intentions must have appeared to many Frenchmen to have been at variance with the continued presence of M. Mougin at Angora. With a new man as Ambassador, it is to be hoped that French policy and British policy in the Near East will become a little more assimilated than they have been in the past.

The Attack on a Desert Convoy.

According to official returns, the number of passengers proceeding by motor convoy between Syria and Iraq during the nine months, February to October, 1924, was 5,652. Of these, 2,417 were conveyed from Baghdad to Damascus, and 3,235 outwards to Baghdad. The great bulk of this traffic is native, as is shown by the fact that over two thousand passengers were conveyed eastwards during the months of August and September, when the main stream of pilgrims would be returning from Mecca or Medina, and nearly all the native traffic is conveyed under native auspices at rates considerably cheaper than those charged by the British or the Anglo-French company. During the same period, however, some fifteen hundred passengers used the Desert Mail Service, conducted by the Nairn Transport Company, and a few hundreds more may have travelled by the northern route via Palmyra and Hit. Thus, as a result of the opening-up of the mail route across the Syrian Desert, there is now a weekly average of fifty foreigners travelling by car between Syria and Iraq, and the news of an armed attack on a convoy becomes a serious matter. The outrage occurred on the northern route about half-way between Hit and the Syrian frontier, when a convoy of the Anglo-French company, with M. Maillard, French Vice-Consul at Baghdad, and Mme. Maillard as passengers, was attacked by four men. Both were wounded. Aeroplanes were sent out by the Royal Air Force with medical aid, but Mme. Maillard, we regret to report, died of her wounds. The perpetrators of the outrage were not discovered, after an interval of two days. It is unfortunate that the Anglo-French company, in order to include a visit to Palmyra in its itinerary, should be committed to a route along a recognised line of wells, which brings its convoys within reach of marauding parties of Bedouin. Passengers by the Mail Service follow the direct route between Damascus and Baghdad, with only a single well, about half-way across, along the whole desert track. The danger of molestation by Bedouin is thus reduced to a minimum, and, as a further precaution, the good will of the responsible sheikh of the district, Mohammed ibn Bassam, has been secured by a liberal subsidy. [A map of the Trans-Desert Route is given on p. 279.]

The Cabinet and Iraq.

Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and consequently Minister in Charge of the Mandated Territories, has made a sound move in deciding to pay a personal visit to Iraq, in company with Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for the Air. Lieut.-Commander Hilton Young has already left for Baghdad on a mission to inquire into the finances of the country, but there is a wider aspect of the Iraq question which is well worth the personal attention of the two Secretaries of State. The post of Financial Adviser to the Iraq Government is still vacant, and Commander Young will no doubt have to report on the vexed problem of Iraq's financial contributions to Great Britain under the terms of the Treaty, which, in the opinion of the British officials, as well as of the Iraq Government, were assessed at figures that the country is unable to meet. Owing to the preoccupations of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Cabinet, no attempt was made to get to grips with this question of the financial contributions, although the promise was given that, if the Treaty was duly ratified by the Iraq Assembly, the financial clauses would be reconsidered. The presence of Mr. Amery in Iraq will reassure the Iraqis that the delay in the negotiations, however regrettable, in no way implied a breach of faith on Great Britain's part, but was due to an unfortunate chain of circumstances. Inasmuch as the four-year period for which the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty holds good may expire during the present Government's tenure of office, it is well that no time should be lost by the responsible Minister in gaining that intimate knowledge of conditions in the country which only a personal visit can give.

Transjordan.

An interesting and informative statement regarding Transjordan was given in the House of Lords last week by the Under-Secretary to the War Office. This small Arab State has not attracted much attention recently, apart from the successful repulse of unauthorised Wahhabi attacks. It is satisfactory, therefore, to know that there has been a distinct improvement in the internal situation. According to the Earl of Onslow's statement, there have latterly been great reforms in the Government of Transjordan. Since Colonel Cox assumed office as chief British representative, about ten months ago, there has been "a really remarkable change in the whole political situation in the country." The most important reform is the introduction of a new system of financial control, which came into operation on October 1 last and has been most satisfactory in its result. It will be recalled that the chief difficulty under the régime that preceded Colonel Cox's arrival was the absence of any check or guidance in regard to the budget of the Transjordan Government. Expenditure now is properly regulated and controlled in accordance with written estimates, with the result that there has been an immediate improvement in the cash balance in the Treasury. Salaries are paid up to date, and the expenses of the Court are kept within the limits of the Civil List. Great improvements have also been made in public security, and control is being exercised over tribes who have defied the authority of the Government in the past. On the whole, the Earl of Onslow concluded, the position in Transjordan may be regarded as very satisfactory.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Prime Minister.

Mr. Baldwin has at last made a speech upon a political subject which places him in a higher position than that occupied by any Prime Minister since the War. His oration last Friday in the House of Commons upon the Political Levy was, at least to my mind, one of the superbest utterances of our time. It was a sermon preached by a politician; it was politics preached by a Christian; it was common sense preached by an Englishman. No wonder that all parties rose to him, and that the Press, with a few mean and churlish exceptions, paid testimony in exultant description and blessing.

Mr. Baldwin can, it seems, quote anybody, always with the utmost felicity, but not always with the same results. His Rossetti did not sink very deeply into the House; his Layard did not too greatly please all our students of the East; his Housman would have better pleased the observers of St. David's Day had he been a Welshman; but his Prayer-Book went directly to the hearts and minds of the Commons and of the country, and men who never go to church nor read their Bible felt a tugging at their best and, perhaps, their most forgotten strings when they read his plea of "Give peace in our time, O Lord."

To admit that one of your own followers—and this was freely conceded to Mr. Macquisten, who was trying to get through the second reading of his Political Levy Bill—has an excellent case, and then, by the presentation of a larger, grander case, to destroy its present significance—this was statesmanship and courage such as have not been seen in Parliament for a very long time The Prime Minister, in his interpretation of the position, the responsibilities, and the definition of industry in our modern society, not only morally won over the Opposition, but he re-directed those of his own party who had hitherto been irreconcilable. He has been accused, it is true, of being maladroit, stupid, and weak, but it can now be seen that these accusations sprang from the exercise of Mr. Baldwin's respective convictions, humanity and spirit of conciliation. He has touched the heights, and it is henceforward only the time-servers and the opportunists who will revile him.

The Political Levy.

Quite frankly, the mover and the seconder of the Bill to abolish the compulsory paying by trade unionists into a Socialist Fund made out an excellent case. If the matter which they wished to cleanse were unrelated to anything else, they would have easily and deservedly carried their Bill. But, as the Prime Minister pointed out, this Bill touched the core of the industrial system, and that core should be affected neither by intellectuals nor by politicians, but only by industrialists themselves. Particularly, it was not for the Conservative Party, who were but part of that larger mass of the nation which had recently put his party in power, to make this attack, this challenge, this cry of battle upon the Socialists. It might be that a day would come when the State would be threatened by industrial amalgamation, but that menace was the care of the nation, not of a party. In any case, the freedom and salvation of industry cannot be achieved by political means: industry must emerge from politics. And such emergence can only come in an atmosphere of good will and of peace.

The non-passage of this Political Bill will certainly be reckoned one of the most notable achievements of the Conservative Party of 1925.

Mr. Wheatley's Attitude.

Mr. Wheatley, however, who was one of the late Labour Administration's lights, and who the other day in the House honestly confessed his opinion that activity outside the House (called by those who disapprove of it "unconstitutional action") was a force to be taken advantage of in the securing of Socialist desires, has not been slow to comment upon the burden of the Prime Minister's speech. He explains that industrial relations have become so hopelessly materialistic that something more than Sermons on the Mount are needed to dissolve their bitterness.

There is a good deal in all this, and from Mr. Wheatley's intense, if partial, point of view it is fair comment; but it in no way destroys Mr. Baldwin's major thesis that any dealing in what the ex-Minister of Health calls "concrete facts," by whichsoever side it may be indulged, whether masters or men, cannot touch the problem unless it implies the creation of a new atmosphere. People would be foolish to deny to Mr. Wheatley that the immediate interests, apart from other kinds of interest, are not identical between master and man—for the greater energy a master displays, the more, generally speaking, are his profits, whereas the man's wages, however he works, are, generally speaking, fixed. This psychological difference in the motives of work for masters and men is a basic difference, whose solution by political means is beginning to be despaired of by Mr. Wheatley and is frankly stated to be impossible by the Prime Minister. In short, the problem, as it has been stated in the last few days, resolves itself into the old dictum—that a spiritual revolution must precede an economic one. It is something, at any rate, to have a reiteration of this truth.

The L.C.C. Elections.

It seems always to happen that whatever is best to be said on any particular problem, and would have been said by the Liberals, has already been said by one of the other parties. Thus it was in the case of the Political Levy, where the Liberals were left speechless by the amazing generosity and idealism of the Prime Minister. And thus it has been in the L.C.C. elections, in which the Municipal Reformers and the Labour candidates took all the wise words out of the Liberals' mouths.

Here the Liberals were literally snowed under, because they have nothing with which to battle

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against the storms of inquiry that are blowing about. The Municipal Reformers remained steady, and the Labour people made very definite progress. It appears that local affairs are informing themselves on the lines of political affairs; in fact, it has already been given out by the official organs that municipal contests should be waged on party lines. This seems a great pity, but it is one of the instances where the battle between uniformification and the assertion of local and diverse individualities is resulting in triumph for the former.

The Life of Edward VII.

I have not seen Sir Sidney Lee's recently published "Life of King Edward VII.," but it has been interesting enough to read the different reviews of it. Whereas it is in some quarters heartily praised as a full and adequate account of the earlier years of the late King, in others it has been attacked as a sad case of "white-washing." These latter critics do not mean that Sir Sidney has attempted to wash white what was black, but rather that the multiple colours of King Edward's life have been reduced to a rather uniform hue.

Perhaps we shall not know the truth about these things for another fifty years; it is rather early days for shedding what may be called the Lytton-Strachey beam upon the late King's paths.

Mr. David Kirkwood.

To those, like myself, who have never seen Mr. Kirkwood at his damnédest in the House of Commons, the reading of his suspension last week seemed a little hard. It appeared not for so very much that the Deputy Speaker named him, and one's sympathies were certainly on the side of the Labour Party, who really could do little else than walk out as a protest.

But, apparently, there are times when the Scots member's interruptions are a little more than the House can bear, and this—Mr. Chamberlain was making a statement on foreign affairs—was one of them. It was, however, a disagreeable incident, which reflected little credit on either side, and which will not, as it has been suggested it should become, be quickly forgotten.

Methodist Reunion.

Every now and then, and in later years with increasing frequency, the news that the various churches in England are about to unite is announced to us. Everyone knows that such fusion is desirable—who does not know the village which, having but 1,500 inhabitants, has four or five Non-conformist churches and one Anglican, each accommodating 500 people? And the differences—at any rate, the differences between the Free Churches—are extremely hard to discover. No one with whom I have discussed this question has explained to me any insuperable doctrinal disagreement; it all seems to hinge on the question of church government.

The Wesleyan Methodists—there are three Methodist Churches—seem nearer the attainment of unity than anyone else. In the last few days they have been casting about to find a basis for agreement—with what result I do not yet know. But the movement is certainly worth chronicling.

Alter Ego.

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MINORITIES IN THE BALKANS.

The following letter, dated February 27, has been sent by the Near and Middle East Association to the Secretary-General, League of Nations, Geneva:—

Sir,—In view of the unrest produced in the Balkans by violations of the frontier between Yugoslavia and Albania, and the consequent difficulty in obtaining stable stage government or economic development in the latter country, the Near and Middle East Association of Great Britain desires to urge the appointment by the League of Nations of a permanent Frontier Commission. This Commission should, it is suggested, consist of representatives of the Yugoslav and Albanian Governments and of a neutral president appointed by the League; but in case of refusal on the part of either of these Governments, the League should appoint its own members.

Further, the Association desires to point out that the distress caused by the inequitable treatment of minorities, and the destitution resulting from their being forced to emigrate, has created a situation of grave danger in the Balkan Peninsula. According to information received from various sources, these racial minorities are gradually turning towards Soviet Russia as the only hope of deliverance from the oppression of their own Governments. This is not because they have any sympathy with Communism, but because, having waited long and vainly for the protection promised them by the Peace Treaties, they have at last begun to despair of any help from the Western Powers or the League of Nations.

We beg, therefore, to emphasise the urgent importance of adequate measures being taken for their protection, and we invite a further consideration of the methods of procedure now in force under the League, and the establishment of a more expeditious and effective system for dealing with the grievances of minorities.

(Signatories), Edward Gleichen, President,
Henry Bentinck, Vice-President,
Hon. Col. Sir Armine B. Dew, K.C.I.E.,
Lt.-Col. The Hon. Cuthbert James, C.B.E., M.P.,
Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,
Brig-Gen. H. Conyers Surtees, C.B., C.M.G.,
Major-Gen. J. B. B. Dickson, C.B., C.M.G.,
Sir Harry Lamb, K.C.M.G.,
Sir E. Denison Ross, C.I.E., Ph.D.
Near and Middle East Association, 7, St. James's Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.8.

We regret, that, owing to a printer's error, Bulgaria was referred to instead of Roumania in a statement made last week that the Queen of Roumania was on a visit to Belgrade, to see her daughter, the Queen of Yugoslavia.

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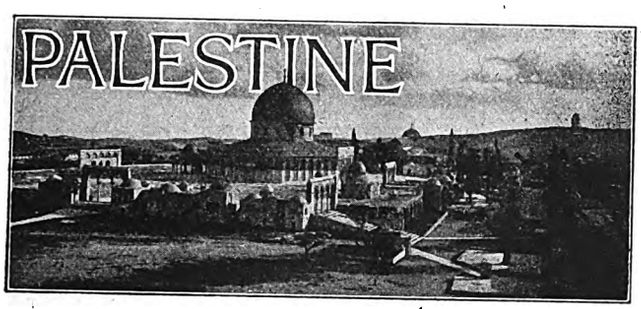
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, February 28.

The Economic Position of Palestine.

Mr. J. B. Barron's article in THE NEAR EAST of February 5 on "Financial and Economic Problems in Palestine" is, in many ways, informative; but his tone and his occasional inferences are unduly and even misleadingly pessimistic. Some of his pessimism is not justified by the facts which provoke it, while more recent information would have helped him to be a little more hopeful than he seems to be on Palestine's economic position as a whole.

Mr. Barron left Palestine in May, 1924, and even in the intervening few months the economic and financial condition has developed somewhat. Much can happen in seven months in a newly reborn country like this.

It is true that the total liabilities of Palestine at March 31, 1923, were approximately £4,500,000, and at March 31, 1925, they are estimated to be £3,753,000. But this sum by no means represents a dead weight of debt. It is offset in the main by credit in the shape of assets—most of them revenue-producing, such as railroads (including the Jaffa-Jerusalem section purchased outright from a French company), telegraphs and telephones, roads and water supplies, besides a large quantity of stores of all kinds for the service of the various departments. And Mr. Barron forgets to mention that the liabilities included half a million pounds borrowed from the Anglo-Egyptian Bank by Government to be distributed to Palestinian farmers in long term agricultural loans at low interest.

Mr. Barron makes a great point of the excess of the value of imports over exports. Yet he would surely not question the prosperity of the United Kingdom where the average annual pre-War excess of imports was 135 million pounds, and the same excess in 1921 as much as 180 million pounds. Nor does he appear to take into account the capital which accrues to Palestine in the form of imported building materials, machinery, drainage plant, and the like. He suggests that the influx of money to Palestine, amounting to a million sterling each year, for Jewish enterprises or Christian religious and charitable works, is not entirely a healthy sign. Mr. Barron would, perhaps, explain why not? A large part of this money buys imported goods, but no corresponding item appears on the export side. Other countries regarded as more or less financially stable are in receipt of unproductive remittances—for instance, Syria, Greece, Italy, Ireland—whose emigrants contribute largely to the revenues of their homelands in the shape of moneys sent to their relatives. Palestine, however, is the depository of invested capital far more than of charity doles. In any case, the balance of trade shows signs of being progressively redressed. In 1920 imports were £5,410,000 to £1,361,000 of exports. In 1924 the figures were £5,266,349 and £1,979,089.

Mr. Barron remarks that large capital has been expended on unremunerative projects both by the Government and by private enterprise. One would like Mr. Barron to name the unremunerative projects of the Government. Does he mean the Palestine Railways, with a permanent way and rolling-stock second to none in the Near East, and yielding a large profit over expenses? Does he mean the network of new roads, the reinforced bridges, which are so important a factor in the development of Palestine's trade and industry? Does he mean the admirable system of telegraphs and telephones? Does he mean the 190 new village schools? As to private enterprises, there have been since 1920 just a dozen bankruptcies or liquidations, mostly voluntary. On the other hand, these few years have seen the prosperous establishment of scores of workshops and many factories, including a brick factory, with a daily output of 40,000 bricks; an important cement factory, with a capital of £300,000; a soap factory and oil refinery, a modern mill, each involving a capital expenditure of more than £100,000, a textile factory, a large tannery, and power stations at Jaffa, Haifa, and Tiberias; to say nothing of a growing tobacco industry, a developing export business in a variety of commodities, and a record orange trade.

Mr. Barron has apparently forgotten the visit of Sir Ernest Dowson—an acknowledged expert—in 1923 to advise Government on land settlement, land taxation, and cadastral survey, and does not seem to know that Sir Ernest is actually again in Palestine at the moment of writing, engaged in the final investigations which are to precede the realisation of his proposals. In the circumstances Mr. Barron's demand for "an authoritative investigation of real rights and a reform of the obsolete land laws" is gratuitous.

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

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Mr. Barron has in any case failed to put on record the extensive work already accomplished in the last three years by the Government Survey, by which 1,146,500 dunoms have already been surveyed in detail and nearly 8,000,000 dunoms covered by 3rd and 4th order triangulation.

But perhaps the most simple and effective retort to Mr. Barron's arguments is that the surplus balance of the Palestine Government on January 31, 1925, amounted (the fact is startling, but the figures are reliable) to *something over half a million pounds;* while the Customs revenue (in which Mr. Barron is perhaps mainly interested) has risen from £41,000 in April, 1924, to £55,000 in January, 1925, and has not fallen below £51,000 in any month since August, 1924.

The Arabs and Lord Balfour.

It is still too early to know just how seriously one ought to take the Arab Executive's detailed manifesto about the "strike" which they propose to organise in welcome of Lord Balfour. As it stands, it is no more than a bare resolution drafted by a few Arabs, with a following indeterminate both in numbers and tenacity; and it goes without saying, in a country like this, that there is a body of Arab opinion (equally, it has to be admitted, indeterminate in numbers and tenacity, but greatly inferior to the Arab Executive in its power to assert itself) not in favour of the "strike" notion and the political extremism of which it is a symptom. But, for all that, most people in Palestine, including even many of the Jews, would be profoundly relieved to hear that Lord Balfour had decided not to be present at the opening of the Hebrew University. The "strike" may or may not amount to anything; the Arab Executive may or may not represent the mass of thoughtful or thoughtless Arab opinion. The nuisance, however, is that such a promising weapon has been flung into the hands of the local malcontents, who are determined to work their hardest to use it as a means for digging out their brother Arabs from their slough of seeming content and apathy, and so re-creating, for the benefit of the outer world, a situation equivalent to that of 1920.

It is the Zionist leaders who have brought about the present situation—though with the very best intentions. It remains for the Zionist leaders concerned to balance the gain to their cause by the world-wide publicity which is certain to be given to the opening of the University on April 1, with the possible loss to their cause (in the event of there being any unfortunate incident)—both by the worsening of the general local political situation (so vastly improved of late) and by the bad effect that it will have on the minds of their thousands of Jewish guests, who are to include the most distinguished and wealthy men of Jewry. It is just humanly possible that the moment of the solemn inauguration of the University, which the Zionists hope will mark a climax in the work of the National Home (and a huge piece of propaganda in its favour), may, in reality, mark a climax of hopelessness for a Jewish future in Palestine in the minds of those Jews (including some of the most wealthy and influential) who are still not wholly sympathetic to the Zionist ideal.

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Liubliana, March 2.

The Opposition Programme.

At the end of this week the Skupshtina will resume its sittings after an altogether unintentional pause, and all parties are preparing for this re-assembling, which will in all probability be of decisive importance for the trend of Yugoslavia's internal policy in the immediate future. A determined struggle is to be expected. Whether this struggle will degenerate into hostilities entailing deplorable consequences depends upon the attitude of the Government parties, which are called upon in this session of the Skupshtina to pass a pretty severe test in ability to govern.

The proportion of strength in the Skupshtina is as follows: The "National Bloc," as the Government parties style themselves, disposes of 163 Deputies (142 Radicals and 21 followers of M. Prebitchevitch); the "Bloc for National Agreement and Popular Democracy," as the main body of the Opposition now calls itself collectively, numbers 139 Deputies, and the remaining Opposition parties number 13. Thus the Government has the majority in the Skupshtina. But outside Parliament the Bloc for National Agreement is stronger by far. It alone scored more than 100,000 votes in excess of all the Government parties put together, and, collectively, the Opposition scored over 300,000 votes more than the Government. Technically, this circumstance is of small consequence. But its moral importance is very great, with the result that the struggle between the Government and the Opposition will be waged as between evenly matched opponents.

On former occasions the chief weakness of the Opposition was a lack of cohesion. Monarchists and Republicans, factions of the Right and of the Left—the most divergent views—were united in one Bloc! Add to this the extras of M. Raditch, which invariably and with mathematical precision would happen at the most inopportune moment.

This lack of cohesion has now been thoroughly overcome, and the leaders of the individual groups in the Opposition realise that they must pursue a unified policy if they intend to carry the day in the great struggle over the internal development and Constitution of Yugoslavia. As a result, the Opposition chiefs have agreed upon a common programme, and on the strength of this compromise of ideas formed a unified Bloc known as the Bloc for National Agreement and Popular Democracy. The text of their agreement has not yet

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been published, because the various clubs have still to discuss and confirm the understanding. Nevertheless, the main outlines of the joint Opposition programme are well known. It is a point of cardinal importance that the Raditch party has jettisoned its republicanism, and decided in favour of a Monarchy on the British model. The question of a revision of the Constitution is also viewed by it more soberly than before. The Raditch Party, in brief, is confining itself to essentials and giving up the trimmings. Obviously the party could not be expected merely to make concessions without receiving anything in return. And therefore it insisted firmly upon its Agrarian programme and upon the general principles of democracy, yielding only over questions which are the outcome of post-War conditions, and arise rather from demagogic agitation than from actual and vital needs. The Bloc for National Agreement stands for the Davidovitch policy, for the Bloc of Agrarian Democracy, and for M. Raditch's demands, and the resulting programme may be summarised thus: A unified State, administered on a basis of liberal autonomy (local government, not independent Home Rule), with special consideration for the agricultural character of the country.

Unquestionably this affords a solid foundation for the building up of Yugoslavia, and, therefore, the announcement of the new Bloc made a profound impression even in the Government camp. For it is clear that Yugoslavia's Man of the Future can only be he who will realise the agreement between Serbs and Croats. And as it is the Democrats who have so far solved that problem, their position is stronger than that of the Radicals, although for the moment the Radicals command by far the greater number of mandates.

The new Bloc for National Agreement has resolved that it will not negotiate with the Radical Party as a whole, but only with individual Deputies. This resolution is a proof of the strength and unity of the Opposition Bloc, and, moreover, of great importance for the further development of Yugoslavia. Differently expressed, this resolution means that the Bloc for National Agreement is fully aware that the agreement between Serbs and Croats cannot be definitely realised until the majority of the Serbian pople fall in with it. Hence it is necessary that the Radicals should come into the agreement; but not any member of the party who stands compromised by corrupt practices. The Opposition cannot see its way to admitting corrupt elements for the sake even of the agreement. For the agreement is not a political deal, but a cause designed to serve only the good of the nation and the welfare of Yugoslavia. By this attitude the Bloc for National Agreement has again insisted upon its moral advantage and reinforced its influence.

As for the Raditch Party, it has really gone as far as it could in the matter of yielding, and it is now for the Crown not to miss the opportunity. If the present goodwill of the Croats should fail to meet with consideration, they may hardly be expected to remain good monarchists. The Serbs will have the chance of showing their goodwill over the verification of the Raditch mandates. If the mandates are verified without boggling, and the interned deputies restored to liberty, the atmosphere will become sensibly clearer. But if the Raditch mandates should not be verified, the entire Opposition may leave the Skupshtina, and the rift grow wider than ever. Wherefore it is to be hoped most earnestly that neither of the great groups will proceed to extremes.

The Government's Work.

Meanwhile the Government is setting to work upon its programme without allowing itself to be disturbed too much by the clash of parties in internal politics. And the first-fruits of its labours is the new Press Law.

The Minister for the Standardisation of Laws—for there is a special Minister for this department in Yugoslavia—Dr. Srskitch, has already explained the main outlines of the new law to the Yugoslav pressmen, and pointed out that it was certainly stringent, yet only towards such as fail to respect the honour of the individual or the dignity of the State, but that in other respects it was liberal, and that the freedom of the Press was maintained.

After being passed by the Council of Ministers and obtaining the preliminary sanction of the Crown, the text of the draft of the new Press Law has now been published, and in many quarters, especially in Opposition circles, the opinion prevails that it does not in the least justify the Minister's description. Critics of the new law say that it absolutely destroys the liberty of the Press; that all that is left of the latter is the assurance at the beginning of the text to the effect that the Press is free, whereas every succeeding paragraph proceeds to circumscribe that freedom. The Editor is made responsible, also the publisher, the printer, and finally the vendor. And the penalties are rigorous. If a notice in a given paper cause disturbance of the domestic peace of the party concerned, the Editor is liable to a penalty of a fine and a term of imprisonment ranging from one month to one year. In other cases the penalties range from three months' to ten years' imprisonment, with fines of from 1,000 to 200,000 dinars. Corroborative proof must be produced within sixteen days. Material submitted on the seventeenth day is not taken into consideration. In view of the Yugoslav failing of dilatoriness this is a serious handicap. On the other hand, as regards rectifications, criticism avers that the new law opens up distinct possibilities for abuse. A paper is compelled to print almost every rectification, no matter whether it corresponds to the truth or no. In brief, the Opposition says that the draft of the new Press Law is such as only a thorough-going reactionary Government would dream of passing.

In defence of the law, its supporters say that experience has shown that the Yugoslav Press as a

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whole requires such restrictions as the new law proposes, and that these will not press at all hardly upon papers which of their own accord exercise such good taste and discretion as are becoming to a dignified Press in a civilised State.

The next law the draft of which is to be submitted to the Skupshtina is the new Housing Law. This, too, is being sharply criticised as failing to give landlords their full and proper rights while affording no adequate protection to the tenant. A credit of 30,000,000 dinars is proposed for subsidising the building of new dwelling-houses. It is estimated that at this rate something like one million dinars would fall to the share of most of the larger towns, and this sum certainly falls far short of actual requirements. It must be borne in mind, however, that both the above laws exist as yet only in the draft, and it is too early to say what will be their ultimate form. If the Opposition can make its will felt, they are sure to be considerably modified before coming into force.

GREECE.

Athens, February 22.

The Government's Position.

Last week the Government summoned a meeting of its supporters so as to see what its real position was; over 200 Deputies appeared, showing thereby that all the various groups which form the Government *bloc* were ready to support it. Thus the Government's position seems safe for the time being, as M. Papanastasiou, the Leader of the Democratic Union, extreme Republicans who refuse to obey the orders of M. Venizelos, can muster only 80 odd votes.

General Kondylis.

The Government would be not at all unwilling to drop General Kondylis, Minister of the Interior, if it dared; his militaristic ideas rather frighten his fellow Ministers. With this idea General Othonaios, G.O.C. the Macedonian and Thracian troops, was summoned to Athens to give his views as to the amount of support General Kondylis would find in the Army. The result was not very pleasing to the Ministry, who have decided to leave General Kondylis alone. He has fifty supporters in the House, and might well join General Pangalos, a similarly impulsive man, in the Opposition, and the temptation for the two to seize power and proclaim a military dictatorship might prove irresistible.

Governmental and Other Parties.

It is probable that the Government will try to strengthen its position by opening up negotiations with the more moderate groups who have no seats in the House because they abstained from voting at the last elections, but who have, nevertheless, a preponderance in the South. If successful, the Government might form a Ministry of the Centre, offering the moderate Royalists certain portfolios in return for recognition of the Republic. Thus the Left, M. Papanastasiou, and the Right, Die-hard Royalists, would be kept at bay. It is known that the ex-King has stated he will not return unless invited by *all* parties: in other words, he will probably not return at all.

In the meantime, the Government have risen for a short recess, after which the two vacant Ministries of War and Education will be filled; the former will probably go to M. Gontikas, a Republican lawyer, who was Minister of Education, and later of War, in 1923; he is a very able person.

Greece and Yugoslavia.

Preliminary negotiations are taking place in Athens between M. Caclamanos, representing Greece, and M. Gavrilovitch, for Yugoslavia, regarding the latter's claims in Macedonia before the renewal of the Græco-Yugoslav alliance. So far, the Greeks have been agreeably surprised at the moderation of the Yugoslav claims. They include the doubling of the line from Ghevgeli, the frontier station north of Salonika, down to Salonika itself; secondly, a large increase in the area of the Serb mercantile zone in Salonika, whereby it becomes almost a Serb enclave. It is stated the Serbs would also be willing to cede to Greece the shares she recently bought in the line, and which form a majority of shares—for a profit, be it understood.

Brigandage.

Some excitement has been caused by a sudden revival of brigandage. M. Stais, ex-Minister of Education in Royalist days, and a large party of sportsmen from Salonika, were held up and robbed by a band of brigands at Ekaterini, on the northern side of Mount Olympus. One unfortunate person was detained till ransom was paid, three days later. It is stated the brigands told M. Stais that they let him off comparatively lightly, as he was a Royalist like themselves! General Kondylis, who, as Minister for the Interior, is responsible for law and order, at once dashed to the spot, and threatens to deport whole villages whose inhabitants are suspected—probably rightly—of being in alliance with the brigands. The result of this is awaited with interest.

Athens.

The Town Council of Athens is successfully bringing to a close a series of operations in the form of asphalting a number of the larger streets of the town; though this resulted in a temporary dislocation of the traffic, undoubtedly it will, when finished, considerably alleviate the dust plague, which is at present the scourge of the place after two consecutive days of fine weather. Previously the Town Council had been so busy in politics that it never had any money to spend on mere improvements.

A scheme is at last being adopted also to remedy the water supply of the town; at present this year there has been a very severe shortage of rain, and prayers by the united ecclesiastical forces were offered for rain. Already, in February, the authorities are talking despondingly of what may be in store for Athens this summer. In the meantime, the new scheme, which should be started before very long, looks to an artificial lake behind Mount Pentelikon, where there is a stream flowing the whole summer. It should be capable of putting an end to the trouble for some years to come.

Sofia, March 3.

The Political Situation.

Since my last letter there has been another political assassination—namely, that of M. Strashmiroff, a Communist Deputy. This murder occurred three days after that of M. Mileff, and, curiously enough, at almost the same spot and at approximately the same hour. Needless to say, the assassins escaped.

A few days afterwards questions regarding the

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murders of these two Deputies were asked in the Sobranye, and much indignation was shown by all parties. The Government replied through M. Roussoff, Minister of the Interior, who, in a long speech, dealt with the various activities of Communists in Bulgaria and in neighbouring countries. The Minister maintained that the Communists and their friends were determined to bring about trouble, and that the taking of severe measures was essential if peace was to be assured. Last week a supplementary Defence of the Realm Act was introduced into the Sobranye, and, after two days' discussion, it was passed, and has become law. The Government and the Liberals voted for the Act, but the Socialists, dissident Democrats and Radicals, Agrarians, and Communists, voted against. The Act was, however, passed by a large majority. Its most important clauses are those in which Communist Deputies are debarred from holding seats in the Sobranye, and Communist newspapers are forbidden from being published. Otherwise the Act will permit the authorities to use more extreme measures against subversive elements.

The opposition shown to the Act by the Socialists and dissident Democrats and Radicals is somewhat surprising, as these three parties unhesitatingly condemn Communist methods. But their leaders—MM. Pastourkoff, Malinoff, and Kostourkoff—declare that the Act will not in any way serve to calm the country. Partisans of the Government retort that it is by force, and force alone, that the Communists can be kept quiet. This remains to be seen.

Geneva Minority Protocol.

On Monday, March 9, the Council of the League of Nations will open its sittings at Geneva. Item 15 on the agenda concerns the Minority Protocol which Greece signed with the League of Nations in September, 1924, but which she has since decided to reject. Mr. Austen Chamberlain will act as "Reporter" to this matter. Although it is realised in Bulgaria that having once rejected the Protocol, Greece is not now likely to change her mind, it is universally hoped that the League will see fit to go thoroughly into the whole question of Bulgarian and Greek minorities, and will not be content with verbal promises regarding future treatment of the said minorities. If the League, acting at the behest of the Great Powers, takes up the line of least resistance and refrains from further interesting herself in Bulgarian and Greek minorities, she runs the risk of being accused of having acted in a pre-War diplomatic manner.

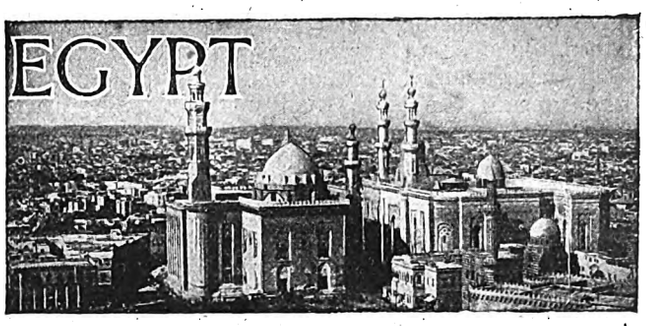
Irrigation of S.W. Bulgaria.

It is much to be regretted that the offer which the American firm, "Ulen and Co.," made to the Bulgarian Government for the irrigation of South-Western Bulgaria has fallen through. The representatives of the company have left Sofia after a long stay, and it is whispered that the manner in which they were treated leaves a good deal to be desired. It is thought, however, that the Government will hardly let the matter drop, as the advantages of a well-thought-out irrigation scheme are enormous. Furthermore, this scheme has been one of the chief planks in the Government economic programme, and it is believed that definite promises have been made to the electors in the districts concerned.

News in Brief.

M. Destailleurs, who succeeds Comte de Chérisey as French Representative on the Inter-Allied Reparation Commission, has arrived in Sofia.

On Wednesday, March 4, Bulgaria will celebrate the 47th anniversary of her independence.



Cairo, February 28.

The Tripolitan Frontier.

Jerabub has provided us with the only political thrill of the past week, and even the wordy warfare waging over the obscure oasis on the Tripolitan frontier has not been very interesting. In the first place, very few people know where Jerabub's precise location on the map is, still fewer care, and, worst of all, the situation of Egypt with regard to Jerabub and to any intentions that Italy may have regarding that home of Senussi reclusion, does not admit of either doubt or argument. If Italy, choosing to settle the matter without further ado, elects to occupy Jerabub, the question will be settled, for the Egyptian Government could certainly do no more towards turning the Italian troops out again than would be accomplished by registering a formal protest. But such action on the part of the Italians would certainly embarrass the Zewar Ministry, and would afford the Zaghloulists with another excellent stick with which to beat their opponents. For the sake of internal peace and calm it is to be hoped that the Italian Government will refrain from forcible action, and that a final settlement may be left until such time as there is an Egyptian Government in power with a Parliament behind it.

The Geographical Congress.

To judge by the programme just published, the delegates to the International Geographical Congress, which opens here on April 1, will have a busy time. The inaugural ceremony, at which King Fuad will be present, will take place in the Royal Opera House, and between that event and the ending of the Congress, on April 9, there are to be numerous official dinner-parties, a gala on the Nile, visits to the Pyramids, Sakkara, the Egyptian Museum, the Citadel, and other of the most interesting monuments and sights in the neighbourhood of Cairo.

A Busy Season.

Lent, in Cairo, is a season of feasting, not of fasting, and now that the last month of the winter season is upon us, we are settling down to

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give every fleeting moment something to keep in store. The lean, hot months of summer are near at hand, and if we do not make the most of what the present can give, there will be little further chance of merriment until next December. Almost every day sees some cruising vessel or other discharging hundreds of tourists on our shores. Their stay is usually short, but they are no sooner gone than others take their places. In sport, too, this is a busy season. Captain Hime, of Alexandria, has won the Open Golf Championship with a record score, the 3rd Hussars have won the Command Boxing Team Championship, the 9th Lancers, for the fourth year in succession, have lifted the Inter-Regimental Polo Tournament, and last Sunday at Heliopolis, El Ward, Hefni Bey Mahmoud's wonderful Arab horse, won the King's Cup by a short head, in a race which nearly caused several heart failures. There are other things in Egypt besides politics.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, February 25.

Inter-Oppositional Strife.

Since the fusion of the National Party with that of M. Iorga, and in consequence of this important event in the political life of Roumania, there has been an effervescence among the Opposition groups. General Averescu in rejecting the appeal of M. Maniu (mentioned in a previous letter) gave as his reason for doing so the fact that M. Argetoianu was a member of the new party, hurling against his former Minister of Finance the severest criticisms, which were published in the form of an open letter in the Roumanian Press.

This new attack upon the morality of M. Argetoianu, by which General Averescu appears to make a personal matter of his refusal of the proposed fusion, cannot deceive well-informed people or mislead them on the real reasons for this step, or on the line of conduct which has been adopted by the People's Party.

General Averescu's Policy.

General Averescu and all the elements of his party believe that a change of Government is approaching, and they are convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the power is bound to fall to them. According to General Averescu's calculations, he is sure of a large majority in the Old Kingdom, and as for Transylvania, which is the province of M. Maniu, he thinks his recent recruit, M. Goga, has also a certain following in the Ardeal, and that he might very possibly checkmate the leader of the old National Party. The other provinces are an unknown quantity, and only an appeal to the voters can show whether General Averescu has sufficient influence there to gain the number of votes he requires. He hopes, moreover, to be able to arrange with the Liberals that they recommend him to the King, when the time comes, as their successor.

This arrangement, however, has not yet been completed, and it is to be supposed that the Liberals will not allow the party of General Averescu to succeed them without sufficient guarantees that it will, so to speak, remain in their hands and at their discretion. On the other hand, it is natural for General Averecsu to calculate that, once in power, and strong in the experience gained during his last Government, he will be able to throw off that tutelage. The future will show whether these conceptions, which appear to be cherished by the leaders of the People's Party, are not founded upon illusions.

Tsaranist and National Parties.

The Tsaranist Party, as was to be expected, did not respond favourably to the appeal of M. Maniu. This party, which is founded upon principles of pure democracy and of a constitutional monarchy, could hardly be expected to combine with a conservative group such as that of M. Maniu. In order to bring matters to a head, after the appeal of M. Maniu had been issued. M. Sever Dan, Secretary to the National Party, drew the attention of the Tsaranist Party in a curious public letter to the consequences which would follow their refusal, naively explaining the procedure which could be followed against the Tsaranist Party in order to weaken it. The leaders of the Tsaranist Party, however, appear to have perceived the manœuvre at once, and have decided to face the consequences of the isolation involved by their inevitable refusal. A certain amount of defection has been registered, but the persons who have gone over from the Tsaranist Party to the new one formed by the fusion above referred to do not appear to be influential members, and the Tsaranists seem disposed to regard their action as operating rather towards the consolidation of their party by the elimination of uncertain elements. Moreover, a back current is being formed by a group of the old National Party, with M. Goldis as its leading spirit, which is visibly tending towards the Tsaranists, with whom already cordial political relations exist.

M. Marghiloman's Position.

M. Marghiloman, still standing apart, has shown no sign of wishing to take part in the conversations of the leaders of the other parties. In well-informed circles, however, it is considered certain that some kind of understanding exists, more or less secretly, between M. Marghiloman and General Averescu, by which the General, if he came into power, would offer the portfolio of Finance to M. Marghiloman, a statesman who, though not popular in Roumania, enjoys an authority supported by remarkable eloquence, which gives him a real power not to be overlooked.

The Liberals and Their Successors.

The Liberal Government appears to be in no way disturbed by these internal manifestations of the Opposition parties. It apparently intends to continue its efforts towards the achievement of its great legislative work, and to remain in power till that is completed. Nevertheless, it does not appear to be neglecting the question of its succession, and is already speculating on the dissensions which are likely to take place in the new party, for certain more or less direct manœuvres have been made against M. Argetoianu (who is now unanimously regarded as a disintegrating element) with a view to creating friction between him and M. Iorga. But this question will be dealt with later.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 12, 1925 (New Style).
February 27, 1925 (Old Style).
Shaaban 16, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar 16, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Persian Minister left London last week for Teheran.

Lord and Lady Cable have returned to England from Bombay.

Mr. and Lady Cynthia Mosley have returned from India.

Lady Helen Brocklehurst has arrived in London from the Sudan.

The Marquis of Graham has returned to Brodrick Castle, Isle of Arran, from Turkey.

Lady Margaret Bickersteth and Miss Ruth Bickersteth left London last week for Cairo.

Sir John and Lady Harrington have left Cairo for an extended tour in Palestine, Syria, and Mesopotamia.

Sir Alfred Mond, Bt., M.P., has returned to London from his visits to Egypt, Palestine, and Athens.

Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy left London last Friday after a brief visit, for Paris, en route for Bombay.

The Earl of Balfour will leave London on March 15 for Palestine, where he will open the University in Jerusalem.

Captain Douglas Capitaneano, formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on March 3 for Paris.

Lieut.-General Sir John Shea (Adjutant-General in India) had the honour of being received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on March 2.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Bucharest.

Commander Hilton Young left London on March 4 for Baghdad to undertake a financial mission to Iraq on behalf of the Secretary for the Colonies. He is accompanied by Mr. R. V. Vernon, of the Colonial Office.

The Hellenic Government has conferred the Golden Cross of the Order of George I. on Judge Vryakos, of the Cairo Mixed Tribunals, and the Silver Cross of the Redeemer on M. M. Lascaris, manager of the Bank of Athens in Alexandria.

The engagement is announced between Captain H. G. Rivett-Carnac, Assistant Resident, Kolhapur, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Rivett-Carnac, of Shillong, and Cushla, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Pottinger, Resident at Kolhapur.

The engagement is announced between Captain Duncan McCallum, M.C., the East Yorkshire Regiment, late British liaison officer with the French Army in Syria, third son of Colin Whitton and Ellen McCallum, and Violet Mary, widow of Edward Archibald Hume, Barrister-at-Law, Captain (7th) South Staffordshire Regiment, and daughter of the late James L. A. Hope, of Whitney Court, Herefordshire. The wedding will take place in Egypt next month.

In celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of Afghanistan, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires held an evening reception on March 4 at the Legation in Grosvenor Place. In addition to many of the Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, the company, which numbered about 200, included Lord Danesfort, Lord Phillimore, Lord Headley, Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Sir Armine Dew, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Mr. George Mounsey, Mr. Ogilvy Forbes, Mr. J. B. Monck, Mr. Graeme Scott, Mr. Hamilton Lamplugh, and Mrs. B. Arbuthnot.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Howard William Kennard, C.M.G., C.V.O., as His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in Yugoslavia.

The following appointments have been officially announced :—

Mr. J. Prosser, to Assistant Collector and Harbour Master, Cyprus.

Mr. D. M. Hussey, B.A., to Lecturer in English, University College; Miss R. M. McLeod, to Inspectress of Girls' School, Ceylon.

Fayid Sabet Bey has been appointed First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation in London.

Abdul Rahman Fikry has been appointed Second Secretary to the Egyptian Legation in London. At present he is in Cairo.

Lieut.-General A. F. C. Williams, D.S.O., Indian Army, has been appointed as Chief of Staff to Major-General G. McK. Franks, commanding the Kohat District.

Major G. Ireland, Indian Army, has been appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General on the Southern Staff under Lieut.-General Sir Harold Walker.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1925.

THE SITUATION IN BULGARIA..

The situation in Bulgaria threatens to become more and more disconcerting to the country's friends abroad. When men like Petkoff, Mileff, Ivanoff, and Strashmiroff are murdered in quick succession, it is not difficult to gauge the extent to which party feeling must have outstripped the sense of national unity. The murder of these men is a blot on the country as a whole, and can hardly fail to lower the prestige of the Government. Foreign opinion that is well disposed towards Bulgaria is left aghast at the constant reports of assassinations and counter-assassinations; for it is felt that the nation is deliberately sacrificing the good will that its correct foreign policy since the Armistice has won for it. The trouble would seem to have arisen from a failure to think out a given line of policy far enough ahead. After the *coup d'état* in 1923 it was obvious that the only justification for a change of Government was that the new Ministry should make a definite point of breaking with Bulgaria's political past. The grievance against Stambolisky was that he had subordinated the interests of the country as a whole to those of a political party, and by making war on the intelligentsia, was crippling the progress of the nation. The composition of the Zankoff Ministry gave rise to the hope that it would prove to be a Bulgarian Government as distinct from a party or class Government. Yet very early in its existence it started to follow the example of its predecessors in regard to wholesale arrests and the interning of its political opponents. Everyone acquainted with Balkan conditions will recognise how hard it was for the new Government to adopt any other policy; its own position was precarious; it seemed a deliberate invitation to disaster to leave influential opponents at liberty to rally their forces against the relatively weak party that had usurped power. Yet a mere swing of the political pendulum could hardly bring salvation to Bulgaria if the bourgeois parties were to carry out against the peasants the identical policy that the Agrarians under Stambolisky had inflicted upon them. No such policy, we are confident, was actually contemplated by the new Ministry; but before the task of securing the position of the Zankoff Cabinet was accomplished, a determined challenge to its authority was launched in the September rising, and it found itself embarked on a line of action from which it has not been able to withdraw.

By the time the Communist menace was scotched, almost irreparable damage had been done to the cause of internal peace in Bulgaria. The opportunity that presented itself immediately after the accession to power of the Zankoff Cabinet of bringing the Agrarian Party to reason was lost. Its more moderate leaders were kept in prison until too late; for when they were liberated with a view to winning back the rank and file to sanity, they were at once repudiated by the party caucus. To-day it may be said, without much exaggeration, that the Agrarians and the Communists have been welded into a single party by the bourgeois themselves. So severe in certain districts has been the persecution of the peasant that he has come to regard the townsfolk as his natural enemy; leaders of Communists and Agrarian groups take to the hills in order to keep their heads on their shoulders, and the peasant looks to these bands of political brigands as his defenders. In the meantime prominent Agrarians who fled abroad in June or September, 1923, remain in exile; they have come to regard the present régime in an even worse light than the intelligentsia regarded Stambolisky, and are prepared to stop at nothing to bring about, if they can, the fall of an administration which they affect to regard as a tyranny. However contemptible and treasonable their action may be, it plays an important part in the formation of the vicious circle in which Bulgaria now finds herself. It is not too late yet for the Government to retrieve the situation, but it may be doubted whether it can be done without measures that in Bulgaria will seem to be heroic. If the picture that has been drawn is applicable only to a certain number of districts, the tendency must be for the serious conditions to spread to other parts rather than to contract, in the absence of a definite remedy. The political vendetta not only carries with it its own condemnation, but also threatens to introduce difficulties among the followers of the Government *bloc*.

Is there, then, no way out of the difficulty for the Bulgarians? The Government would seem to pin its faith to stronger measures of repression, and hopes to succeed in a policy that has never yet been successful against the Bulgarian people. If the liberty of the peasants to air their grievances in public, whether in the Sobranye or in the market-place, is taken from them, it is certain that discontent will only be driven underground, where it will tend to grow more rapidly than if it were left to take its chance in the open air. A virile people acting under a sense that its rights are being infringed becomes the more exposed to the temptation to defend its cause with revolver and bomb. It is not contended that the Agrarians have all the right on their side, for the question at issue is not so much one of right and wrong as of personal feeling. Unless Bulgaria is to stumble yet deeper into the morass of political vendetta, an attempt should be made to bridge the gulf that now exists between the bourgeois parties and the Agrarians. The latter have been brought to believe that they are in danger of losing their political rights in the event of a prolonged tenure of office by their political opponents. By calling a conference with the moderate leaders of the party, the Government should be able to convince the Agrarians that it has no quarrel with legitimate political opposition, but is resolved to put an end to murder campaigns. The Bulgarian peasant, as is well known, has admirable qualities, and he was never intended to degenerate into a mere Apache. Nothing is more natural than that there should be an Agrarian Party in Bulgaria, but it should be representative of the peasantry and its interests, without aspiring to an undisguised tyranny. If a chance were given to the moderate leaders to reorganise the party on sound democratic lines and not as a military organisation, much of the suspicion which now exists in the country between the political parties would subside. Because Stambolisky waged war on his political opponents, the bourgeois parties, as soon as they had obtained power, felt constrained to turn the tables on the Agrarians. They believed themselves to be acting in the best interests of the State, but the policy has brought the country to a

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dangerous crisis, from which it can be rescued only by the co-operation of all patriotic citizens. Let those who consider themselves Communists first and Bulgarians second remain outside the pale; but the rest should be brought together by a conference of the representatives of all parties in an honest attempt to save the country from further bloodshed and the certainty of ultimate ruin.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

We have already recorded the salient features of the Budget presented to the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, and to-day we propose to examine its significance for the people of India, regarded as a whole. The subject can be discussed from two very different standpoints—the present position and the prospects for the future. The critic who is concerned with things as they are may fairly express almost unqualified satisfaction at the figures placed before him, but his colleague, who is looking further ahead, finds his satisfaction tempered with grave anxiety at the persistence of some evil tendencies, and the failure of some beneficent forces to materialise. The grounds for present satisfaction can be stated quite shortly. The year now closing yields an adequate surplus, and, after making reasonable provision for reduction of unproductive debt, another surplus is in sight for next year, and so well assured that the bulk of it can be disposed of permanently in advance. At the same time, provision is made for a programme of capital expenditure, which is not indeed adequate for the country's needs, but is probably as great as is warranted by the country's spending power. This programme is to be financed without borrowing abroad, and more than a quarter of the money to be raised in the country is to be found by that new phenomenon in Indian finance, the small investor, who is already providing more than could be raised a few years ago from the entire resources of the organised money-market. When we record the avoidance of foreign loans as a matter for satisfaction, it must not be inferred that we subscribe to the doctrine, so fashionable in India, that to borrow abroad is in itself an evil. The fact is simply that foreign lenders are at the moment rather scarce, and, consequently, in a position to charge rather highly for their services, and in these circumstances necessary expenditure might have to be curtailed if India could not raise the capital within her own borders. As things stand, however, the Central Government is paying its way, and rather more, while it can count on finding capital to a reasonable extent at a cost which it is prepared to meet. That is a situation which, in these days, may fairly be regarded with satisfaction.

The position is different when we turn our eyes to the future, and ask what the Government is doing for the years to come. It is not, indeed, wholly unmindful of them. There is, first, the capital expenditure, mainly on railways, to which we have referred. There is, next, a small increase in the meagre provision for research, which we welcome, partly for itself, and partly because it indicates a definite reaction against the injurious policy favoured, in this matter, by the Inchcape Committee. There is, thirdly, the wise decision not to waste the surplus in remitting taxes, but to use it to enable some of the provincial administrations to get on with their proper work. We have still to learn whether this decision will be endorsed by the Legislature. The Bombay millowners are making a vigorous effort to get the surplus for themselves, in the form of a reduction in the cotton-excise, which, in the present state of markets, would be simply a bonus to shareholders. They are, of course, entitled to do the best they can for themselves and their partners in the industry, but, as a poet once observed, "We are not cotton spinners all," and we think Indians unconnected with the industry will be well advised to unite in support of the statesmanlike determination of the Government not to talk about reducing taxation until the provincial contributions have been finally wiped out.

For it is in regard to provincial finance that the gravest grounds for anxiety exist. Under the new Constitution the Central Government is concerned mainly with stability, while the provinces have to find the money for progress. Vast additional sums are needed for the work which it has become the fashion to call nation-building—that is to say, for sanitation, education, economic development, and a general uplift in the lives of the people. In most provinces things are almost at a standstill for want of funds, and even when the whole of the contributions to the central exchequer shall finally have been abolished, the money so set free will scarcely suffice for more than a beginning. The provinces must provide the cost if the country as a whole is to go forward, and at present they are very much disinclined to do anything of the sort. Their recent efforts to develop new sources of revenue, even under the whip of actual deficits, have in truth been rather puerile. Some of them have taxed, or proposed to tax, motor-cars, and some of them picture-houses, others have increased the fees on litigation, or on business transactions, but it is not on such foundations that the nation can be built, and as yet we see no signs of the advent of any real leader, who shall persuade the people to tax themselves to provide the things they need. It is absurd to say, as so many Indian politicians do, that there is no surplus income to tax, for when people are buying jewellery on an extravagant scale there is undoubtedly room for the tax-collector to get busy. We wrote last year that India was spending about a crore of rupees a week on gold and silver in excess of any real needs. She is spending more than that now—apparently it will soon be two crores—and when the jewellers' bill for the year is mounting up towards a thousand million rupees, it is preposterous to argue that there is no money in the country to spend on schools and doctors. Here, then, is the main cause for anxiety in regard to Indian finance, considered in the widest sense. The people are unwilling to pay for what they need, and persist in wasting their surplus income, which in the aggregate is large enough to do real good, if only it were wisely spent. While this attitude is maintained, the country cannot go forward as it should, and, at the same time, the new forces now in operation involve either national progress or national disaster. It is, however, too soon for pessimism. If so little constructive statesmanship has yet appeared, the opportunity for it is still very recent. It would have been little short of a miracle if the first set of popular Ministers had displayed the necessary qualities. All over India, politicians are just beginning to learn their business, and we must be content to wait a little yet before the statesman emerges from the crowd. When he does emerge, he will find a worthy task awaiting him.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons, the Under-Secretary of State for India said that according to the reports of the Health Officer of the Bombay Municipality the infant mortality in Bombay City was 667 per 1,000 births in 1921, 403 per 1,000 in 1922, 411 per 1,000 in 1923, and 419 per 1,000 in 1924.

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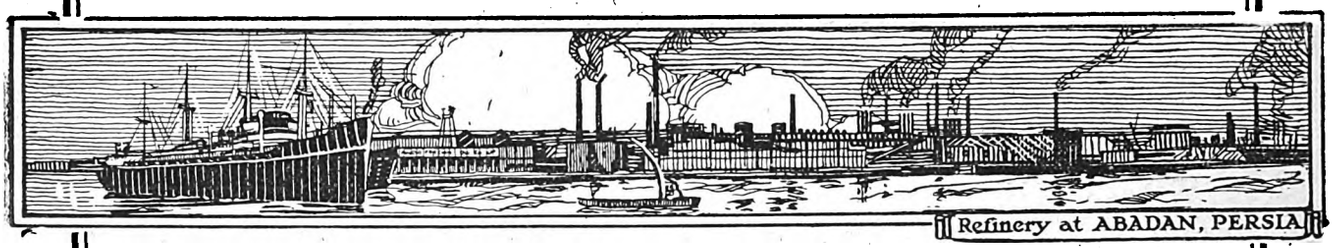

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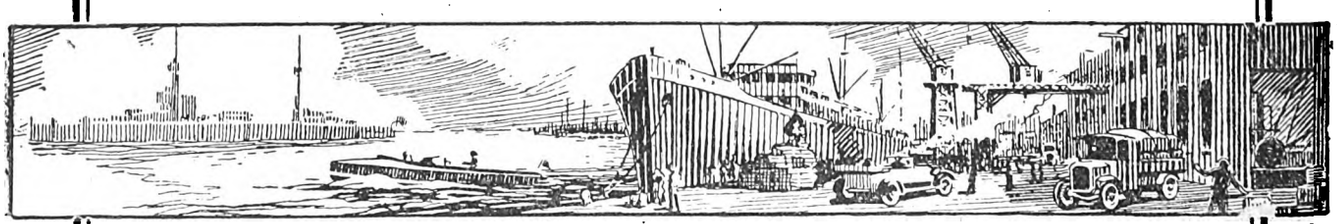

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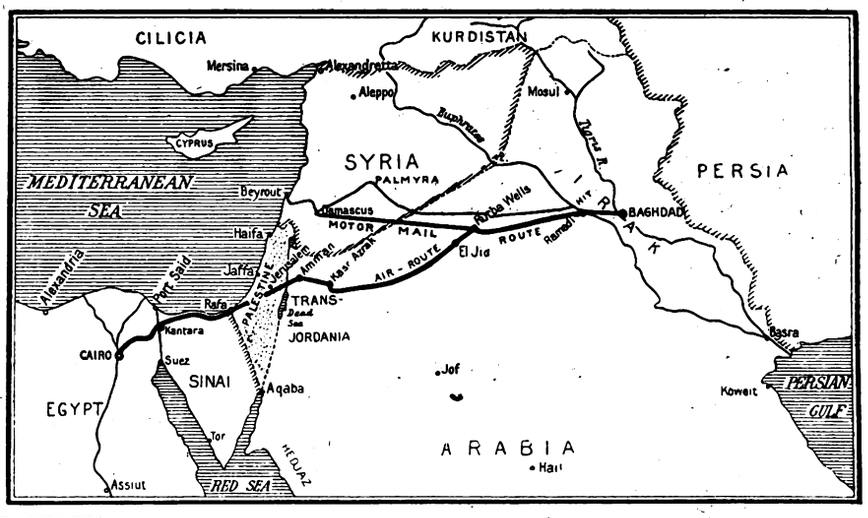

THE ABOVE MAP SHOWS:—

1. **The Air Mail route between Cairo and Baghdad (heavy black line). Fortnightly Mail Service by the Royal Air Force.**
2. **The Desert Mail Service of the Nairn Transport Company (Beyrout—Damascus—Rutba Wells—along the Air Mail track—Ramadi—Baghdad). The mails are taken to and from Haifa by the same company.**
3. **The Eastern Transport Company's Service (Beyrout—Damascus—Palmyra—Hit—Ramadi—Baghdad). The spot where last week's attack took place was about half way between Hit and the Syrian frontier.**

CONSTANTIN GUYS.

At the Goupil Gallery, Regent Street, W., there is an interesting exhibition now being held of drawings by French artists, particularly by Constantin Guys.

Guys, whose drawings here are mostly of horses and of mid-nineteenth century bourgeois types, had a fascinating career. Born at Flushing in 1805, this young Frenchman helped Byron in the Greek War of Liberation, and afterwards, having joined and left the French Army, travelled widely in Europe and in the Near East. Later on he was found acting as war correspondent in the Crimean War for the *Illustrated London News*, and finally settled down in Paris.

There are no actual drawings of the Near East in this exhibition, but it is a stimulating show. Guys was very quick to seize the essential points of a scene. It would be very interesting to know whether he did anything representing the Greek War.

Dr. Orphanides, the Minister of Public Welfare in the Greek Cabinet, has resigned.

The Bulgarian Communist deputy, M. Haralambi Stoyanoff, was assassinated in Sofia last Friday. The murderer, who was arrested, is a young native of Macedonia named Razwigoroff.

The motion introduced by a Nationalist member in the Punjab Legislative Council demanding the immediate removal from its site on the Mall, Lahore, of the statue of Lord Lawrence has been rejected.

The Roumanian Minister at Berne is attending the League of Nations Conference at Geneva, which meets this week.

M. Albert Sarraud, who was formerly Governor-General of Indo-China, has been appointed to the French Embassy in Angora, which M. Franklin-Bouillon declined to accept.

It is officially announced that the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for Air will visit Iraq and Palestine on official business during Easter recess. As at present arranged, Mr. Amery and Sir Samuel Hoare, accompanied by officials of the Colonial Office and of the Air Ministry, will leave England on March 19, and will return towards the end of April.

Sir Geoffrey Archer, the new Governor-General of the Sudan, arrived in Cairo last Thursday. He was met at the station by Mr. Henderson from the Residency, by representatives of the King of Egypt, by the Prime Minister, the Minister for War, and other high officials. He was received in audience by King Fuad, and left the same evening with Lord Allenby, the British High Commissioner, on a duck-shooting expedition.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Michalokopoulos has filled the vacancies in the Greek Cabinet by appointing M. Gontikas Minister for War, instead of himself, and M. Misyroglou Minister of Assistance. The Premier retains the Foreign Office.

It was reported from Constantinople on March 6 that three important newspapers and three reviews have been suspended by virtue of the new law for the preservation of public safety.

Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, the former Egyptian Prime Minister, who has just been made a Senator, has been elected as the first President of the Ettehad (Unionist) Party which was formed in January.

The appointment of Sir Ronald Charles Lindsay, K.C.M.G., Diplomatic Representative in Constantinople, to be British Ambassador to the Turkish Republic was gazetted on March 6.

Eight persons were killed and 28 injured at Mogosoaia railway station, on the outskirts of Bucharest, last Friday, when two goods trains, in one of which some soldiers were travelling, came into collision owing to faulty shunting. Both engines and ten coaches were completely smashed.

According to official returns, the candidates at the Egyptian elections to be held to-day (Thursday) will include 178 Wafdists, 92 Ettehadists (Unionists), 83 Liberal Constitutionalists, 61 Independents, and 30 Nationalists. Of the 20 uncontested seats, the Independents secure 7, the Ettehadists 6, the Wafdists 5, and the Liberal Constitutionalists 2.

According to *The Times* Belgrade correspondent, the Yugoslav negotiations with Albania for the exchange of the monastery of Sveti Naum, on Lake Ochrida, are not likely, owing to the exaggerated demands of Albania, to reach a satisfactory conclusion before the next meeting of the Conference of Ambassadors, which must decide the question in the event of no agreement being reached.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, accompanied by Dr. Salama, was present at a banquet offered by the members of the Pharaoh's Club in Cambridge, on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of that club, March 7. The Egyptian Colony in Cambridge were present at the dinner, together with some University Professors. The room was decorated with Egyptian flags, and the portrait of His Majesty King Fuad I. was in the place of honour. A toast to the King of Egypt was proposed by the President of the club. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey delivered a speech thanking the President and members of the club for their kind invitation, and he expressed the hope that their aim would always be to tighten the bond of true friendship and understanding between Great Britain and Egypt to the mutual benefit and happiness of the two nations.

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OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Delhi of Sir Leslie Miller, an ex-Judge of the Madras High Court, and lately Chief Judge of Mysore.

The death is announced of Paymaster Rear-Admiral Sir John H. G. Chapple, K.C.B., C.V.O. He served, among other campaigns, in the Egyptian War of 1882, and in the operations in Eastern India in 1884.

At Cheltenham on February 24 the death occurred of Major-General Charles Alexander Cuningham, aged 83. He served for over forty years before going on half-pay, fought in Afghanistan, and for more than twenty years held staff appointments, finishing up as Political Resident at Aden. His eldest son was killed at Gallipoli.

Major-General Sir Richard Westmacott, K.C.B., D.S.O., died last Friday near the close of his 84th year. He belonged to the now small band of Indian Army officers recruited by the East India Company. Entering the Bombay Army early enough to be a Mutiny veteran, he remained on the active list long enough to command a brigade in the Tirah Expedition.

Mr. Clovis Maurice Camille Bévenot, late Professor of French at the University of Birmingham, who died at Torquay on February 21, examined in the Romance languages, including Roumanian, at many universities in the United Kingdom, and for the Indian Civil Service, and was appointed Professor of French at Birmingham in 1889, retiring on a pension in 1909.

Colonel James Ross O'Connell, who died in Dublin on February 25, at the age of 61, served with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, and was with the 3rd Egyptian Battalion at Firket and Hafir, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the Mejidieh Order. In the operations of 1898 he served with the 12th Sudanese, including the Battle of Khartoum, when he was again mentioned, and received the Osmanieh Order; also in the final advance against the Khalifa in 1899. From 1904 to 1907 he was Governor of Kordofan, in the Sudan.

Mr. Henry Maughan Liardet, late lieutenant in her Majesty's Indian Navy, died at Nantwich on February 15. He served during the Pegu War, in Burma, in 1852, and received the Pegu medal and clasp. He was a lieutenant of the Assaye, the flagship of Sir Henry Leek, and was at the taking of Reshire and Bushire, in the Persian Gulf, in 1856, for which he received the Persian clasp. He held the position of flag lieutenant to Admiral Sir Henry Leek and George Grenville Wellesley, and was with the first expedition which went up the River Selang, Burma, to navigate its waters, and received the thanks of the Bengal Government for his services. During the Indian Mutiny in 1858-9 he was at Bombay and Scinde. At the conclusion of the Persian War he carried dispatches from the Government of Bombay to General Sir James Outram, who commanded the expeditionary field force in Persia.

The Right Rev. Charles Harvey Stileman, late Bishop in Persia, died suddenly on February 23 in a nursing home at Wimbledon, at the age of 62. The youngest son of Major-General W. C. Stileman, Indian Army, he began in 1889 his long association with the East as C.M.S. Missionary at Baghdad, and in 1891 he removed to Julfa. From 1895 till 1906, with the exception of a year on furlough, he served as secretary of the C.M.S. Persia Mission. Then (says *The Times*), after a short period as C.M.S. organising secretary in the West of England, he became clerical secretary of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. In 1912 he was consecrated as Bishop in Persia. The centenary of the early death of Henry Martyn, Fellow of St. John's, Cambridge, who translated the New Testament into Persian, was commemorated that year, and when the Public Orator, the late Sir John Sandys, presented Bishop Stileman for his honorary D.D., he made reference to the Bishop's appeal for a Cambridge mission to Shiraz with its memories of Martyn. To his work in Persia Dr. Stileman brought a thorough knowledge, both of the language and of the national life and thought, and he wrote a book called "The Subjects of the Shah."

Queen Olga of Greece, who is residing in Athens, will pay a visit to London during May.

The Nationalist motion for the removal of the Lawrence statue from the present site has been rejected by the Punjab Legislative Council.

Professor Newberry, the Egyptologist, who has been assisting Mr. Howard Carter in the examination of the tomb of Tutankhamen at Luxor, was taken to Cairo on March 4 suffering from fever.

The Imperial War Graves Commission announce that the date of the dedication ceremonies in the British War Cemeteries at Gaza and Deir-el-Belah, Palestine, has now been altered from April 20 to April 28.

Emil Effendi Khouri, a Syrian, and chief editor of the Zaghlulist newspaper *El Ahram*, was ordered to quit Cairo on March 2 at an hour's notice, and was escorted to Port Said by Egyptian police. *Al Siassah* states that the French Consul associated himself with the action of the Egyptian authorities.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

An Important Hungaro-Yugoslav Agreement.

An agreement which seems likely to be of great importance in the development of Near Eastern trade has just been made in Belgrade between Yugoslavia and Hungary as regards reduced rates and facilities for transit traffic. The Hungarian State Railways are to allow large reductions on Yugoslav agricultural products and half-finished commodities consigned to Austria, Germany, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland. In return Yugoslavia will give preferential treatment to goods from Hungary destined for Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece. Any measure that will help the wheels of trade in the Balkans to revolve freely again is to be welcomed, for it is only by the development of commerce that the exchanges can possibly improve.

The Leipzig Fair.

It had been feared that the decision not to hold the London section of the British Industries Fair as a separate entity this time might give a special opportunity to the Leipzig Fair to re-establish itself as the chief world mart for those goods that have been displayed at the White City. Reports from Leipzig hardly suggest that there is any real foundation for anxiety on this score. The fair, indeed, seems to be a failure this time. The exhibits, it seems, are mainly of the cheap kind, and there is an almost total absence of the novelties and improvements that were such a feature in the pre-War era and helped to make the fair such a powerful weapon for German economic penetration. There have been a fair number of foreign buyers, and one can only hope that they have visited the White City in previous years, because they will then know where they must come for quality and novelty.

India and Wembley.

So far as it goes, writes a correspondent, the decision to continue India's representation at Wembley is extremely welcome, but the organisation of a series of exhibits that will really represent India is a task of a good many months. As it is, we are told that the Indian States that were at Wembley last year are being invited to participate again, which rather gives the impression that an affair like this can be very speedily settled. The Indian Pavilion last year, however charmingly depicted by the scribes, was in plain English an extremely poor apology for a display of India's potentialities, and unless great efforts are made from now onwards, and unless India as a whole takes up the idea of Wembley with enthusiasm (as to which I have my doubts), it seems highly probable that once more the East will disappoint the West.

Last Year's Display.

Thus my correspondent in terms which should make all these good people who think that whatever is is for the best shudder. As I have pointed out in these columns, the Indian Pavilion was admirable, but India is a large subject, and to give a potted impression of it in one edifice is rather like attempting to précis an encyclopædia into a page. You get a result of sorts, but not what is desired. During the exhibition I heard a variety of views on the different pavilions, and while there was a general agreement that India was good, I found the impression that a good many parts of the pavilion very singularly lacking in interest—that is, compared with the displays in some of the other pavilions. However that may be, the fact remains that every time I visited the Indian Pavilion I found it thronged, and on at least two occasions I had very considerable difficulty in getting round at all, which rather tends to controvert this impression.

London and Wembley.

It appears that great hopes are being based on the development by Londoners of what is known as the Wembley habit. I am very dubious on the point myself. After all, Wembley as a Mecca is one thing when viewed through provincial spectacles, and another when regarded by the Londoner after a day's work. Were it centrally situated I have no doubt that the Exhibition would receive masses of Londoners every night—but not at Wembley. If anyone doubts it let him or her picture the attitude of a resident at Lewisham or Croydon or Catford or any similar outlying parts of London to the suggestion that Wembley ought to be visited at least once a week. The very thought is enough to make such a person tired. Of course, if the Government would arrange for a series of Grand Babylons at Wembley for tired Londoners to stay at free I would not be prepared to say that we should not develop the Wembley habit rapidly, but short of something like that—well, I think not.

Aeroplanes for Turkey.

There have been a good many reports regarding Turkey's intentions in respect of air services, one of which is that a German firm is to establish an aeroplane factory in Turkey in return for a concession in regard to commercial air services and certain other concessions. It may be correct, but in view of previous developments I am rather inclined to doubt it. After all, the Turk is an adept at keeping potential clients in a state of uncertainty, and it is much more probable that his hopes as regards the air are based on this country.

COMMENTATOR.

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Reports from Our Own Correspondents.

EGYPT.

Cairo, February 28.

The Chamber of Commerce.

There was an alarmist note in the speech at the annual meeting in Alexandria of the British Chamber of Commerce by the President, Mr. Davies Bryan. Mr. Davies Bryan drew attention to the anomalous circumstance that Egypt has had a cotton boom and a depression in the retail trade simultaneously. But, and of this Mr. Davies Bryan seemed, by his subsequent remarks, to be convinced, the retail depression has been more imaginary than real. Egypt at the present time is in a remarkably prosperous condition; and it is almost true to say that there is so much money in the country that people do not know what to do with it. One phenomenon, most marked during recent years but not touched upon by the President of the British Chamber of Commerce, is the way in which wealthy Egyptians who, until quite recently, would not put their money into anything but land, or, alternatively, locked it up, often without taking interest, in banks, are now investing in commercial companies' shares. If this movement continues, as it almost certainly will, a corresponding increased interest on the part of Egyptians in business matters may be seen, and, at last, a breaking down of the old prejudice against business as a career, which has turned so many of the country's young men of the upper middle class into either Government clerks or idlers.

Commercial Neglect of Egypt.

The really serious part of the President's speech dealt with the falling away in the imports of British goods. Mr. Davies Bryan was not overstating the case when he said that last year's trade returns reveal, from a British point of view, a grave situation. While almost our competitors have forged ahead, some, like Italy, in a remarkable manner, British imports have declined in value, and our percentage of Egypt's total purchases from abroad is now lower than it has ever been. Mr. Davies Bryan, not content with pointing out the danger which British trade in Egypt is running, made several useful suggestions regarding measures for recovering lost ground. It is to be hoped that his remarks will find their way to manufacturers interested in the Egyptian market. One example of the manner in which this country is neglected by British business men is afforded by the motor-car industry. There is probably no country more suitable for the British light car of the £150-£250 class than is Egypt, yet, until a year ago, British light cars here could be counted on the fingers of both hands. Now the situation in this respect is a little better, but the remarkable fact about most cars of the type now to be seen here is that they have been bought in England and brought out here by their owners. Very few British cars are sold here, and the reason is that no attempt is made to compete with the clever sales campaigns and excellent service facilities offered by American, French, and Italian makers. Ford, Citroen, and F.I.A.T. have been allowed to have it all their own way. Five hundred British cars could be sold here this year if the market were properly tackled, and the number could be greatly increased in every succeeding year.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during November last amounted to 36,301 ozs., valued at Rs. 19,49,549.

The Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers have placed the order for the three kiln shells, each 250 ft. long, which will be the largest yet installed in this country, for Bevan's works, with Vickers, Limited, Barrow-in-Furness.

SOME PERSIAN PRODUCTS AND THEIR COMMERCIAL VALUE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Persia is an agricultural country, industry so far playing a very secondary part. A brief description of some of the principal products of the country may be of interest.

Wheat is cultivated all over the country, except in the Caspian provinces of Gilan and Mazanderan, where the climate is too damp, and also along part of the coast of the Persian Gulf. The grain is of excellent quality, but the quantity produced is not large enough to provide for any export trade. In Gilan and Mazanderan provinces rice is produced in such large quantities that it not only provides for local needs, but is also largely distributed over the other parts of Persia, and, in addition, much is exported to Russia. In other parts of Persia rice is only cultivated sporadically in places where the climate and the water supply are favourable for its growth. Rice is a national food of Persia, and therefore the best long-grained sorts are mostly used in the country itself, and only the inferior types are exported.

Cotton is cultivated sporadically in many districts in Mazanderan; in the district of Barferush the culture of cotton has been considerably developed during the past two decades, and there are several cotton cleaning factories in the town of Barferush. The principal cotton regions are in the neighbourhood of Teheran, Ispahan, Kazvin, Damghan, Shahrud, Salzevar, Nishapur, Meshed, Karman, etc. Mazanderan cotton is of the American type, has a longer fibre than the indigenous product, and fetches higher prices. The greater part of the cotton produced is exported to Russia.

Three kinds of tobacco are cultivated in Persia, viz.: (1) The water-pipe tobacco (Tambaku), which is grown in particular in the environs of Shiraz. It is much used in Persia, and is famous for its quality. A great part of it is exported to Turkey, Egypt, Afghanistan, and India. (2) A cigarette tobacco (Tutun) of Turkish seed is grown in the neighbourhood of Resht and Barferush. It is used in Persia, and part of it is exported to Russia; but its quality is not so good as the Turkish or South Russian tobacco of the same kind. (3) An unfermented green tobacco, crushed by hands, and used only for ordinary pipes (tchubuk), is grown in many parts of Persia.

Vineyards exists everywhere, and the grapes are of great variety and excellent quality. The Persians eat the grapes with bread, and wine is made only by the Armenians, Parsees, Jews, and Europeans. The best wine, made at Shiraz, is very much like sherry. The Jews at Hamadan manufacture a very good white wine, and from certain kinds of red grapes wine like the burgundy and claret can be made. The most important grapes are the "Kishmish," a small, very sweet, thin-skinned, and nearly seedless sort. The raisins made from it are called "Sabza," and are exported to Russia in very great quantities. They are mostly cultivated in the Azerbaijan province and in the neighbourhood of Kazvin. From the husks of grapes after the manufacture of wine the Armenians distill a strong but disagreeable smelling spirit called "Arrak," which is much used by them.

Sugar cane is sparsely cultivated at Mazanderan; the juice of it and sometimes of the sorgo plant, primitively extracted, is boiled down to a nearly dry condition, and is thus used by the inhabitants. On the leaves of some oak trees at Kurdistan and about the Astrabad bay, through the stings of some

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insects, a sweet juice flows out, which soon dries to a sugar-like mass, and this, mixed up with parts of the leaves, is collected and sold in the bazaars as a cough medicine. As Ispahan a certain sweet cake is prepared from it called "Gaz," which is much appreciated by the Persians.

Of the different kinds of wood and timber in the immense forests of the Caspian province only box-wood, walnut, and oak have value for export. For the other less valuable kinds of timber the Persian table-land would be a good customer if cheaper and more effective means of transport could be created.

Resht and its environs produce the largest amount of silk cocoons, which are steamed and dried and exported to France via Baku-Batoum. This trade is entirely in the hands of Greek and Armenian contractors. The seeds used to be brought from Constantinople, as the seeds collected at Gilan are of inferior quality. All the villagers around Resht are occupied with this business, and the plantations of mulberry trees cover a considerable area.

Carpets are the only really valuable articles for export of Persian industry. The most precious carpets are manufactured at Kurdistan; they are thin, of original pattern, and their size is generally not very large. Splendid silk carpets of medium size were also manufactured some years ago by a firm at Tabriz. The carpets of Farahan are of large size, soft, and thick. Next to them in value are the carpets of Khorassan, with a long frieze and brilliant colours.

THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF TURKEY AND THE BALKAN STATES.

The report of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States for 1924, presented at the annual meeting of the Chamber, held at Constantinople on March 5, states :—

"Early in the year the Council appointed a Committee, consisting of Colonel Woods and Mr. Tubini, to study the question of adding a standard arbitration clause to local contracts. The Committee reported that it was of the opinion that for an arbitration clause to be effective it must be accepted by all local Chambers of Commerce, and that it would be advisable for the Consultative Committee to take this matter up with the Chamber of Commerce of Constantinople. As the Consultative Committee was not formed the question is in abeyance.

"The high import duties are having some effect on local industries. Fresh efforts are being made to stimulate manufacture. Rice is now being imported in its natural state and prepared for consumption at rates which compete successfully with the imported finished product. Sacking from Dundee and Czecho-Slovakia is being cut and sewn into bags by recently erected machinery. The manufacture of glucose, of which there is a large import into this country, is being considered. The flour-milling industry has received the encouragement for which it has asked in vain for over fifty years, viz., a discriminating duty against flour, with the result that the flour mills have never been so busy as they are at present.

"On the removal of the roof over Rue Reshadieh in Stamboul it was feared that a congestion in the Stamboul Custom House might follow. A Committee, consisting of Colonel Woods and Mr. Walter Seager, was asked to call on the Director of Customs and remind him of the inconvenience caused to trade when the Custom Houses were congested three years ago. The Committee was informed that the Sefkiat Depot at Seraglio Point had been allotted to the Custom House authorities, who would take every measure possible to prepare for a revival of imports.

"The Government issued special regulations during the year covering the right to import patent medicines and other pharmaceutical specialities. Under these regulations only specialities for which special permission is granted may be imported into Turkey. The Commission granting these licences to be issued sits in Angora once a month only, so that the issue of permits is proceeding very slowly. Licences applied for over six months ago have not yet been dealt with. A large number of applications have been refused. The result of these measures and delays has been seriously to affect the trade in these articles, particularly as the Commission would appear to be extending restriction to articles other than patent medicines, and pharmaceutical preparations, such as toilet requisites.

"It is satisfactory to be able to say that the Turkish General Post Office has, after the first natural confusion, shown considerable improvement. It would have given the council equal pleasure to report favourably with respect to the telegraph service. Unfortunately, it is unable to do so. Complaints have come in during the whole year. The position has been gravely aggravated, and the trade of the country, already suffering very badly from depression, has been further hampered by the closing of the Eastern Telegraph Company. The council, with the help of the Commercial Secretary, has made representations to the authorities, and continues to take active steps with a view of obtaining the much-needed improvement.

"When the Chamber was incorporated in 1913 no British Chamber existed in Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Roumania. To-day there are independent British Chambers with which the Cham-

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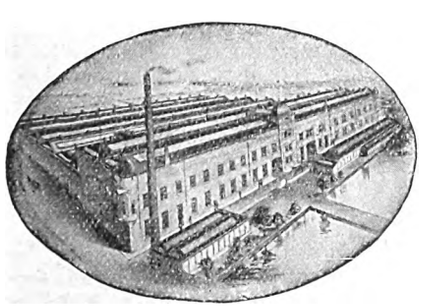
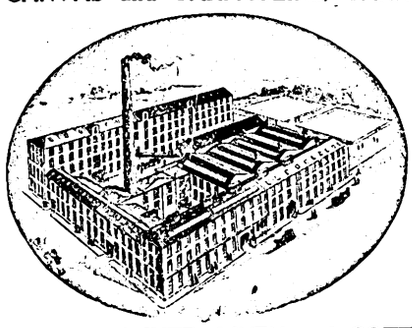
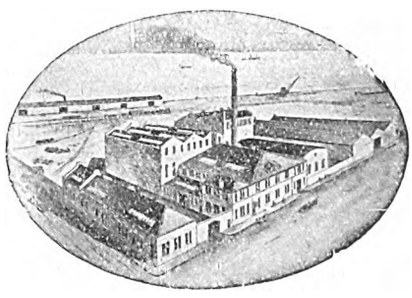

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ber maintains cordial relations. In these circumstances the moment seems opportune for the Chamber to revert to its original title. If the annual general meeting approves the suggestion it will be necessary to obtain the permission of the Board of Trade, a special resolution will have to be passed and confirmed at two extraordinary general meetings."

THE TANNING INDUSTRIES OF YUGOSLAVIA.

The supply of hides and skins in Yugoslavia is insufficient, despite the fact that there are 5,000,000 head of cattle in the country, according to official statistics (says an American Consular report). The neglectful care of the buffalo, which is the leading hide-producing animal, renders its hides unsuitable for the production of sole leather. Buffalo hides are used only by the smaller tanners for the making of an inferior-quality leather, which is manufactured into opanks, or the national peasant shoe. The large tanners depend almost entirely upon foreign sources for the better grades of raw materials.

Despite the low domestic production of cattle hides, some of these are exported, thereby increasing the existing shortage. Until lately the Yugoslav leather industry had been obtaining large cowhides from Northern Italy, but since the restriction placed by Italy on these exports other sources for these hides must be found, and to do this it will be necessary to pay increased prices.

The quality of hides and skins in this country varies considerably, according to the regions of origin. Those originating in many parts of the country, as Bosnia and Herzegovina, are of very poor quality, and many of them cannot be used because of the grub holes caused by the warble pest. The best regions are Banat, Voivodina, and Slovenia, where the pest does not seem to have attacked the herds. The take-off in Bosnia and Herzegovina is very poor, and will require much improvement before the skins are marketable to any large extent. The skins in these regions are ordinarily dried in the sun without caution, and many show cracks and grub holes. The best skins are those coming from the region of Slovenia, where more care is exercised in the take-off and drying methods.

Among the infant industries of Yugoslavia, the leather industry is the leading one. There is room for much improvement in the quality of the leather produced, and the largest output consists of harness leather. Practically all the leather produced is of a rapid tannage, the density is very great, and the grain very brittle, showing dark spots or blemishes in the shoulders and sides. New tanneries are frequently organised, but generally do not have sufficient capital or technical experience to establish a sound and important business. In spite of the financial and economic difficulty through which Yugoslavia is passing, the leather trade is considered good. The two important centres for the leather trade are Zagreb and Belgrade.

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Egypt.

Lubricating Oils.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,310 metrical tons of mineral lubricating oils. March 25.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing and necessaries required for the Egyptian Police and Ghafir Services during 1925. The principal requirements include woollen blankets, ankle boots, chevrons, non-inflammable shirt collars, cotton shirts and drawers, cotton gloves, cotton and woollen socks, uniforms, boot blacking, heel-balls and palm-oil soap. Tenders will be received by the Director of Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, up to March 28. (D.O.T.)

Stores.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of goods required by the Central Police Stores for the year 1925-1926. The range of articles required is wide, covering accoutrements, harness and saddlery, fire-engine accessories, barrack-room, etc., furniture, tools, permanent and consumable stores (including brooms, flannelette, oils and paints, sacking, cotton thread). April 21. (D.O.T.)

Telephone Exchange.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a manual full common battery telephone equipment in Cairo and of subscribers' telephones and other apparatus to work therewith. The exchange to be equipped for 6,000 subscribers' lines and to have an ultimate capacity of 8,000 lines; 3,900 table and 700 wall telephones will be required, together with a certain quantity of three-position switches and private branch exchanges. April 30.

Chemical Manures.—The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture invites tenders for the supply of the following chemical manures:—Nitrate of soda, 21,000 metric tons; nitrate of lime, 2,000 metric tons; sulphate of ammonia, 1,000 metric tons; superphosphate of lime, 3,000 metric tons. Six hundred bales of E bags for bagging the nitrate of soda are also required. May 2. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Egyptian Postal Administration invites tenders for the supply of clothing and general stores for the year 1925-26. The general stores cover a wide range, although frequently in quite small quantities. May 12. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Locomotives.—H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. Charles Goodwin) reports that a firm has approached him asking to be furnished with quotations for a locomotive. The type of locomotive required is about 70 h.p. (D.O.T.)

Turbo-Generator.—The Municipal Electric Works of Timisoara (Transylvania) invites tenders for the supply of a turbo-generator, Scott transformers, a high-tension feeder, and various accessories. March 26 (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Telephone Exchange.—The Greek Government invite tenders for the supply of a manual telephone exchange for the City of Athens. April 15. (D.O.T.)

Bulgaria.

Passenger Cars.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs invite tenders for the supply of narrow gauge passenger cars and goods wagons. March 23. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Passenger Coaches and Goods Trucks.—The Direction Generale des Chemins de Fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of six passenger coaches and six goods trucks. April 1. (D.O.T.)

Reconstruction of Bridges.—The Direction Générale des Chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the reconstruction of ten iron bridges on the Haidar Pacha-Eski Chehir section of the Anatolian Railway. April 2. (D.O.T.)

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

YUGOSLAV PORT TRAFFIC.

Three Yugoslav ports receive imports from foreign countries in any large quantities—Gravosa (Gruz), Spalato (Split), and Sebenico (Sibenik), says the *Monthly Review* of the Anglo-Austrian Bank in a survey of Yugoslavia's trade in 1924. Italy is the principal importer, followed at a distance by Great Britain, and then at a still longer interval by France, Holland, Egypt, etc. The ships carrying these imports were 80 per cent. Yugoslav, 14 per cent. Italian, 2.4 per cent. Russian, 2 per cent. British, and 1 per cent. Greek. Besides the three ports above mentioned, other ports forwarded exports to foreign countries—Sushak, Bakar, Segna (only timber), Vranjic (chiefly cement to Far East and South America). Of goods leaving Adriatic ports 21 per cent. represent internal coastal traffic. Foreign countries receiving exports are in the first place Italy, then Egypt, Greece, Malta, China. These exports are carried up to 61 per cent. under the Italian flag, 33 per cent. under the Yugoslav, 2 per cent. under the British flag.

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. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 28); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 28); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, March 20); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, March 24).

ANCHOR LINE

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KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—
*OLYMPIA, March 13. *SCINDIA, April 28.
*CASTALIA, April 1. *MASSILIA, May 12.
*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

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THE INDIAN EXHIBITION COMMISSIONER.

Dewan Bahadur T. Vijayaraghavacharya, Indian Exhibition Commissioner, gave a dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant on February 24. The guests included:—Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, and Lady Chatterjee, Lord Olivier, Sir Arthur and Lady Hirtzel, Lieutenant-General Sir Travers and Lady Clarke, Mr. Wickham Steed, Sir Malcolm and Lady Seton, Sir Louis and Lady Kershaw, Sir William and Lady Clark, Sir Francis and Lady Younghusband, Sir Israel and Lady Gollancz, Sir Thomas Carey-Evans, Sir Howard d'Egville, Sir Lawrence and Lady Weaver, Sir John Maffey, Major-General Sir John Burnett-Stuart, Sir John Biles, Professor William and Lady Rothenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Howard, Mr. J. C. B. Drake, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Mr. F. H. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Yusuf Ali, Mr. William Defries, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Joseph, Professor Edwyn Bevan, Mr. and Mrs. George Joseph, the Misses Koman, Mr. Ranganathan, and Mr. Ramkrishna Pillai.

RAILWAY MATERIAL FOR EGYPT.

The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo (Mr. E. Homan Mulock) reports that the exact numbers and respective cost of each category of Egypt's railway requirements are as follows:—275 kilometres of double track, £E600,000; 80 locomotives, £E400,000; *90 passenger coaches, £E315,000; 1,035 goods waggons, £E362,000; bridges, £E120,000; signals, £E110,000; total, £E1,907,000. *Of these, twenty bodies are to be built in the Egyptian State Railway workshops at Boulac.

The Commercial Secretary cannot, however, obtain any approximate date for the call for tenders for the eighty locomotives, as the chief locomotive engineer's report, it is understood, has not yet been received. Tenders for the 275 kilometres of double track will be called for during 1925-26.

All calls for tenders are handled by the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.1, who will in due course issue invitations to tender to firms on that Administration's approved list of tenderers.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended February 10 amounted to £E10,503, making the total from April 1 £E312,599.

Sir William Edward Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., of Welbeck House, Wigmore Street, W., formerly of the Indian Works Department, later Inspector of Irrigation in Egypt, and Under-Secretary of State for Public Works in Egypt, who was largely responsible for the Assiut Barrage and the Assuan Reservoirs, who died on January 8, aged 76, left estate of the gross value of £23,085 with net personalty £22,776. He left:—His Banner as Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, hanging over his stall in the Chapel of the Order in St. Paul's Cathedral, all his decorations and Orders, his miniatures and silver plate, to his cousin, Colonel Henry Edward Garstin, D.S.O., R.A. To Cheltenham College (his old School), for the Museum, a large pair of elephant tusks marked as shot by him June 3, 1905; to the British Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, all his stuffed heads, hunting trophies, and his collection of African arms and implements; to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, five oil paintings of wild elephants, wild buffalo, lion, tiger, and roan antelope by the German painter Wilhelm Kuhnart, and the picture by Whymper of the Whale-Headed Stork. Two sketches by Howard Carter (one of Luxor Temple and one of Memnon Statues) to Mrs. Henry Wakeman, of Lowndes Street, S.W.; the picture of Philæ Temples at Sunset, by Lady Wenlock, to the Hon. Lady Lloyd, wife of the Governor of Bombay; his picture of a Mounted South African Yeoman, by Lady Butler, to the Dowager Countess of Airlie; £75 each (or £150 to the survivor) to Herbert Reeve and his wife if still in his service; £40 to his housemaid Hetty Harris if still in his service.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended February 26, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very irregular for Sakel and quiet but rather firm for Uppers. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $0.05 down for March, $0.05 up for May, $0.50 down for July, $0.20 down for November, $0.25 down for January, 1926. Ashmouni : $0.30 up for April, $0.38 up for June, $0.25 up for October.

The Sakel market has been again subjected to violent fluctuations due to speculative manipulation. March contracts have firmly maintained their premium over May, despite the fact that spot Fully Good Fair cotton has undergone a heavy drop; it can now be bought at about parity March contracts, whereas a short time back $1 to $1½ premium was readily paid. The Uppers market has been firm but rather inactive. The recent advance in New York has not affected prices much, as the actual prices are generally considered rather high in comparison to American. Furthermore, cotton from Upper Egypt continues to come down steadily, and there is no doubt now that this year's production is almost as large as last year's. At the third February tender 1,500 krs. dockets were issued : the total during the month is 10,750 krs. Liverpool Egyptians have been very firm indeed; reports emphasise the poor selection of the available stocks, and point out that consumption of Sakel has now been reduced to the irreducible minimum. The week's receipts amount to 100,744 krs., against exports 184,006 krs.; the stock stands at 1,614,031 krs.

Spot.—Business continues very quiet at Minet el Bassal, and demand from abroad shows little or no signs of improvement. Sales amount to about 13,100 B/s, of which we estimate 4,800 B/s Sakel, 5,900 B/s Uppers, 1,900 B/s Zagora, 200 B/s Pilion, 100 B/s Brown, and 200 B/s White.

Sakellarides continues in very moderate request. Spinners attention has been mainly directed to the medium and lower grades, and only a very small inquiry has appeared for the better qualities, due, beyond doubt, to their very high prices, which have put them beyond the reach of most users. Spot differences are unchanged for Good and better and for Fully Fair and below; for Fully Good Fair they are rather easier, and for Good Fair rather dearer.

Ashmouni and Zagora continue in steady request, and there is a persistent demand for the top qualities at good prices. Spot differences are a little easier in the lower grades, unchanged for the medium grades, but decidedly dearer for Good and better.

Pilion.—A moderate business has been done, without much change in the spot differences from last week.

Brown has met with only a poor inquiry at about last week's rates.

White has been in fair request. Spot premiums and discounts are a little easier than last week.

Crop 1925.—The weather has now become settled, and sowing in the Southern Delta is well advanced; in the Central districts it has just started. Growers in general show the same tendency as last year for early sowings, and this is a rather favourable factor. Great care is being exercised by growers in selecting pure Sakel seed for planting, and it is to be hoped that next year's crop will be purer than this year's, in consequence of the steps taken to prevent any further mixing of cotton in seed before ginning.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Business on Fair Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended March 4 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A quiet, steady business has been done during the past week, and price fluctuations have been of a comparatively minor order. The feature of the week has been the renewed interest displayed in cotton of the Upper description, and a subsequent tendency for the quotations of this cotton to harden at the expense of Sakel. At the same time it is a curious fact that this week there have been several lots of spinners' cotton (Uppers) on offer for resale at reasonable prices. The majority of the spot business here has been for the best quality, for which about 22.25d. to 22.75d. is being paid. Fully good fair at about 20.50d. to 75d. comes next, and rather more interest has been shown in the fair to good fair quality. In Sakellaridis a small business has taken place in the "best," for which up to 40.00d. has been paid. Most of the inquiry, however, is still for the fully good fair cotton. The basis for this so-called bread-and-butter cotton has shown signs of wavering recently, and from what one hears buyers have had rather the best of it during the past few days. A slow but steady increase of interest in the low qualities, say, 15.50d. to 22.00d., has again been noticeable. Pilion, brown, and white cotton have all received a small share of attention, but business in these growths has been of a very limited extent. Sudan cotton has been neglected, with the sole exception of one lot of American seed cotton, which changed hands at 13.25d. Trade reports from Manchester have latterly shown some improvement, and inquiry on the whole shows signs of a distant broadening. Forwardings for the week ending the 27th ult. were returned as 12,156 bales. Estimated sales, 2,400 bales Egyptian and 50 Sudan. Quotations of upper and brown are advanced 30 to 45 points. Sakellaridis remains unchanged, with the exception of fair, which is reduced 20 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 35.30d.

The British Representative at Bucharest has forwarded a translation of a notice to debtors relative to debts contracted in England between November 11, 1918, and January 1, 1922, recently issued by the "Oficiul Pratilor Straine" and published in the *Universul*. The notice, which has further reference to the payment of the fourth instalment on February 14 last, calls attention to paragraph 7 (b) and paragraph 9 of the London Agreement and to Article 9 (b) and Article 10 of the Manchester Agreement. According to these articles debtors have the option of paying their instalments through the Banca Nationala, and the remittance of the fourth instalment to the creditor by the Banca Nationala can be made at the end of the year 1925 along with the fifth instalment, which is due on August 15, 1925.

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CONDITIONS IN INDIA IN 1924.

Improving Trade Outlook.

The annual market review of Messrs. Premchand, Roychand, and Sons, of Bombay, gives a most interesting survey of economic developments in India in 1924. We give the following extracts :—

In India, while the year did not see any definite return to normal trading conditions, there has been a further general improvement, and the prospects for a more rapid revival of trade in the near future have become distinctly promising. For the fourth year in succession the monsoon was generally good, and crops were satisfactory. Exports of Indian produce, from which all restrictions were removed in the previous year, have shown an all-round increase, and the balance of trade during the year has been strongly in favour of India. With the final completion of the liquidation of stocks of imports accumulated during the short boom period of 1919-20, the markets are in a healthier condition, and although the improvement in trade has as yet been somewhat one-sided, there can be no doubt that the latent buying power of the country will make itself felt as soon as there is a return of confidence in the stability of prices. The development of more favourable conditions in the export trade has been accompanied by a notable improvement in the exchange value of the rupee, which opened with a rate of 1s. 5d. and closed with 1s. 6⅛d.

Together with the general improvement in trade the year has seen further developments in the placing of the internal finances of the country on a sound basis. The change from a series of annual deficits in the national accounts to an equilibrium between income and expenditure had been achieved in the previous year, and in introducing the budget for 1924-5 the Finance Member of the Government of India was able to estimate for a surplus. No new taxation was imposed, the Customs duties were not this year increased, as had been the case during previous years, and the improvement in revenue was obtained by a reduction in expenditure. While the Central Government have succeeded in steering clear of any further foreign loans, the credit of India in the financial world has been increased, and the improvement in the position is reflected in the enhanced market price of the rupee securities. Definite steps have been taken to ensure a progressive movement in the general financial position by the devising of a scheme for debt redemption and the holding of an inquiry with a view to instituting a scientific system of taxation. The redemption scheme provides for a call amounting to Rs. 4 crores from each year's revenue, during five years with effect from the year 1925-6, as an annual provision for redemption of the debt outstanding on March 31, 1923. The taxation inquiry has been instituted after full effect has been given to a drastic policy of retrenchment, and aims at revising the incidence of taxation and devising an equitable system to meet the changed conditions arising from the effects of the war on the level of prices and the increased State expenditure due to the reform scheme. During the year the short-term obligations of the Government of India, in the form of Treasury Bills, which had been first issued to the public under the stress of war conditions, were finally discharged, the outstandings being entirely paid off by July.

But while the general financial position exhibited these satisfactory features, in the money market the year was characterised by exceptional difficulties which, more particularly in the first half of the year, were of an unprecedented nature. An extremity of monetary stringency, of much greater severity than the customary annual conditions of the export season, was experienced in the early months of the year, and there was little material improvement until the second half of the year, well into the slack season. The record established by the high rates of interest of the Imperial Bank, which from 8 per cent. on January 3 was raised to 9 per cent. on February 14, and did not go below 7 per cent. until June, provide an indication of the striking extremity of the trouble which arose from more than one cause. The difficulties created were necessarily severe, and in some quarters there was a disposition, if not actually to lay at the doors of the Government of India the blame for the existing conditions, at least to impute to the Finance Minister a culpable disregard of the requirements of the business world. It would seem that there is always a group of critics that is only too ready to attribute monetary difficulties as due almost entirely to unsoundness in the official financial policy. On the other hand, in the opinion of practical business men, the present Finance Member has always shown sympathy towards trade requirements; and in point of fact Sir Basil Blackett has rendered valuable assistance to the money market during the year, alike by active intervention through issues of emergency currency and by refraining from operations which in the past have disturbed the market.

There is no doubt that the causes of the extreme stringency were of an exceptional nature. At the turn of the year 1923-4 the trade demand for money from Rangoon and Calcutta on account of the rice and jute crops had continued at high pressure to a later period than usual, and overlapped an exceptionally strong demand for finance in Bombay, where the ruling prices of cotton were at an abnormally high level. Cotton prices were at least Rs. 200 per candy above the average of the previous busy season, and on a crop of five million bales this meant that some Rs. 50 crores more money was needed to pay for the crop. At the same time the price of bullion was higher than purchasers up country were willing to pay, with the result that imports were restricted, and there was a check to the normal return of money from up country to trading circles. The holding up of money resources due to anticipations of lower rates for gold, which did not materialise until the second half of the year, was largely responsible for the prolonged nature of the stringency in the money market. In these circumstances the assistance rendered by Government proved inadequate. But the extent of the assistance given should at least be recognised. There were issues of nearly Rs. 14 crores of currency notes, against British Treasury Bills deposited in the Paper Currency Reserve in London, during the period of stringent money in the export season 1923-4, and material assistance was rendered by the large deposits which the

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Government of India left with the Imperial Bank. These deposits were higher than the cash balance of the Bank until after the close of June. In addition, the Imperial Bank utilised to the full amount of Rs. 12 crores the facilities for borrowing from Government provided by the Paper Currency Act.

During the year the first practical steps were taken towards the protection of Indian industries. A policy of discriminate protection had been recommended by the Indian Fiscal Commission in 1922, and was since accepted by the Government of India and the Central Legislature. In July, 1923, the Tariff Board was appointed with the object of advising the Government as to what means and what effect could be given to that policy. The Board was first directed to examine the claim of the steel industry in India for protection against foreign competition, and the results of the inquiry were made known in the year under report. While the Board did not accede to the full demand of the Tata Iron and Steel Company for a 33½ per cent. import duty, proposals were made for the imposition of tariff duties on imported steel for a period of three years; and these proposals, being accepted by Government and the Legislature, were incorporated in the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1924. Unfortunately, the benefits accorded by the Act were nullified by a notable fall in the prices at which foreign steel was imported in the second half of the year. As the Act itself provided for the imposition of additional or off-setting duties in the event of a fall in the price of imported steel rendering it ineffective, a further representation was made by the company, and towards the close of the year further protection by means of a bounty was afforded. The Tariff Board were also engaged during the year upon an inquiry into the claims of the paper and cement industries, and will be called upon also to deal with claims from other sources. Industries have to satisfy the Board that they possess natural advantages, that without protection they are not likely to develop in the manner desirable in the interests of the country, and that they are likely to be able eventually to face competition without the assistance of protection. The Indian cement industry has undoubtedly been severely handicapped in common with some other indigenous industries by competition from foreign sources. The claim of Indian cement for protection has, however, not met with general support, and it has been urged that the chief difficulty with which the companies are confronted arise from the fact that too many cement companies with large-capacity plants were launched in the boom period in excess of the market requirements for the cement they are capable of producing. But there is considerable evidence that the use of cement in India is expanding, and even if the demand for the product in this country is not as great as was believed when these companies were launched, there seems no reason why the imported article should be allowed to narrow the market still further, provided the Indian companies can produce cement at a cost which would not be prohibitive for consumers.

With the cotton mill industry passing through a difficult trading period, and with many mills faced with losses instead of profits, the question of the abolition of the cotton Excise duties became during the year 1924 of more than academic interest, and there arose an agitation for their removal. The Government have made no attempt to justify the retention of the Excise duty on economic grounds or from any other standpoint than that of expediency for purposes of revenue. The duty is paid whether a profit or a loss is made by the mills, and, having regard to the trading position and the heavy direct and indirect taxation now borne by the cotton-mill industry, it would seem imperative that Government should explore other avenues for raising the revenue now obtained by the Excise duty. Other industries in the country are, moreover, more leniently treated in the matter of taxation than the cotton-mill industry, and there would seem no justification for taxing the production of cotton piecegoods in India while jute, silk, woollen, leather, steel, and all other manufactured articles are not handicapped in this manner. The representations made by the Millowners' Association, which have been supported in the Legislative Assembly, have behind them wide public support, and it is to be expected that Government will at the earliest opportunity take the step demanded in the interests of the cotton-mill industry.

There was not much evidence of new industrial enterprise during the year, and the number of new companies of any importance that were registered was small. . . . many promising schemes had to be laid aside until a more propitious moment should arrive for their development, but well-established industries have found it difficult to obtain the capital necessary for desirable extensions. Although the difficulties have not as yet been altogether resolved, the year has seen a development towards a better situation; and while the overdue revival in trade is looming in sight, there is also promise of an industrial revival.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	313-315
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	295-298
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.76-24.78
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$-1s. 6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.65-94.75
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	960-970
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	343-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$-1s. 6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	935-950
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.76½-4.76¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	93.00-93.05
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	160⅜-160⅝
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116 35-.45
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653-659
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.75-33 95
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.75-24 85

His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company announces an interim dividend of 4 per cent. (less tax) on the capital stock, payable April 17.

Mr. F. A. Tomlinson, a member of the firm of C. Tattersall and Co., cotton brokers, Manchester, has been elected a director of the Manchester Ship Canal Company by the shareholders, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. D. Williams.

The condensing plant to be installed in connection with the new 6,000 k.w turbo set recently ordered by the Brighton Corporation, is to be supplied by Vickers, Limited, Barrow-in-Furness. This constitutes a repeat order for a duplicate of the Vickers Condenser put into commission in the same station last year.

In connection with the power station extensions for the Poplar Borough Council which are being carried out by Vickers and International Combustion Engineering, Limited, as main contractors, low-pressure flash evaporating and deaerating plant is to be installed, and this will be supplied by Vickers, Limited, Barrow-in-Furness, who are also constructing the condensing plant for the new 10,000 k.w. turbo set.

It is stated from Delhi that the *Gazette* has published the Government's proposals based on some of the recommendations of Lord Lytton's Committee on Indian Students in England, whose labours in 1921-22 were abruptly concluded owing to the refusal of the Legislative Assembly to grant the necessary expenditure. The Government of India considers that the Indian Students' Department of the High Commissioner's Office should be retained under a different title to carry on the work required of the central agency in England.

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Near East Markets.

INDIA'S IMPROVING TRADE.

Nine Months' Imports.

H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta (Mr. D. M. Clarke), in forwarding to the Department of Overseas Trade the December issue of the monthly trade returns, briefly surveys, as follows, the salient features of the returns :—

During the nine months ended December, 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, the value of the imports increased by Rs. 16 crores, or 10 per cent., to Rs. 184 crores, while the total exports, including re-exports, increased by Rs. 21 crores, or 8 per cent., to Rs. 268 crores. The exports of Indian merchandise showed an increase of Rs. 20,29 lakhs, or 9 per cent., and re-exports of Rs. 58 lakhs, or 6 per cent. The grand total of imports, exports, and re-exports amounted to Rs. 452 crores, as against Rs. 415 crores, or an increase of 37 crores, or 9 per cent.

The balance of trade in merchandise is in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 87½ crores. Of this amount Rs. 51¼ crores have been met by net imports of gold and silver, while a further Rs. 51½ crores represent Council Bills, purchases of sterling, and other Government remittances to the United Kingdom. The exchange during this period remained firm, and the telegraphic transfer rate on the last day of December was 1s. 6⅛d.

Although the total imports from the United Kingdom rose from Rs. 96½ crores to Rs. 98 crores, the proportion of British share fell from 57.7 per cent. to 53.3 per cent., while the undernoted foreign countries increased their percentages of the total imports :—Germany, from 4.7 to 6; Belgium, from 2.3 to 2.9; France, from 0.96 to 1; Italy, from 1.2 to 1.6; Japan, from 5.9 to 6.9; United States, from 5.6 to 5.8.

AGRICULTURE IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA IN 1924.

Although Czecho-Slovakia is rightly regarded as pre-eminently an industrial country, and one that, therefore, depends for its prosperity upon a large export trade, agriculture plays a very important rôle in the economy of the State. In the first place, close upon half the population (52.52 per cent.) are, according to the census of 1921, occupied in agricultural pursuits. Secondly, a considerable quantity of the agricultural output is worked up in the industries for export, and is thus included in industrial output. This applies particularly to the sugar trade, beer, spirits, and malt production, starch and paper-making, and the provisions trade. Finally, the agricultural output has to provide, of course, for home consumption, and this task it accomplishes satisfactorily in respect of fruit and vegetables, potatoes, barley, sugarbeet, malt, and other less important products. In wheat and rye, however, large imports are necessary, and these have been unusually extensive during 1924, when the total grain and flour imports attained a value of 2,355 million crowns, compared with 870 million in 1923.

The total area of Czecho-Slovakia, according to the figures for 1924, is distributed as follows (in hectares, the figures in brackets representing the percentage of the whole) :—Arable land, 5,907,300 (42.1); permanent meadows, 1,384,700 (9.9); gardens, 146,700 (1.0); vineyards, 10,500 (0.1); pastures, 1,201,400 (8.6); forests, 4,652,200 (33.1); water, 78,100 (0.6); land built on or otherwise unproductive, 647,800 (4.6).

The areas under individual crops in 1924 were (in hectares) : Wheat, 606,800; rye, 838,900; barley, 679,100; oats, 864,300; maize, 157,300; potatoes, 634,500; sugarbeet, 302,700; hops, 8,800.

The total yield, in tons, for 1924 was as follows : Wheat, 930,000; rye, 1,180,000; barley, 1,040,000; oats, 1,230,000; maize, 240,000; potatoes, 6,210,000; sugarbeet, 7,810,000; hops (cwts.), 150,000.

In regard to the output of wheat, Czecho-Slovakia occupies the tenth place among the countries of Europe; in regard to rye, the fourth place; barley, fifth place; oats, sixth; maize, tenth; sugarbeet, second; potatoes, sixth; and hops, third. In respect of all these categories, with the exception of hops, Czecho-Slovakia occupies a lower place in regard to the area under cultivation in each case, so that in proportion to the quantity of land under seed, Czecho-Slovakia's crops are above the European average.

Wheat and rye imports totalled 494,000 tons, against 20,000 in 1923; those of flour and other milled products, 398,000 tons, compared with 240,000 tons in 1923. The main countries providing these supplies were Hungary, Austria, Germany, U.S.A., Yugoslavia, and Roumania.

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The British Vice-Consul at Prague reports that in view of the development of heavy motor lorry and steam wagon transport a great deal of work will probably require to be done on the roads in the course of the next few years, and there would appear to be an opening for a British firm specialising in tar macadamisation and concrete road making which would be prepared to establish a branch in Czecho-Slovakia.

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 723—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Minorities in the Balkans.

Among the subjects discussed in Geneva last week by the Council of the League of Nations none concerned the Near East more closely than the refusal of the Greek Government to ratify the Protocol for the protection of Bulgarian minorities in Greece that had been signed by the Greek representative last September and formally endorsed by the League. It was one of the most hopeful signs of a new spirit in the Balkans when Greece and Bulgaria severally pledged themselves to the League to utilise the services of the Mixed Commission appointed to supervise the exchange of Bulgars and Greeks for all questions affecting the respective minorities in the two countries. In other words, Greece and Bulgaria agreed to put into operation under international supervision the minority clauses to which both were pledged by the Treaty of Neuilly. It was an eminently sensible arrangement, beneficial to both parties in view of all the existing circumstances. Unfortunately an attempt was made in Bulgaria to represent the Protocol as a justification of Bulgarian claims and contentions, and in this way undue attention was called to the agreement. No fault, however, was found with it by Greek public opinion until Yugoslavia denounced her treaty with Greece. Rightly or wrongly, the Greeks decided that the denunciation was prompted solely by the existence of the Protocol, on the ground that it would encourage Macedonian subjects of Yugoslavia to call themselves Bulgars, and might lead to a demand for international supervision in regard to minorities in Yugoslavia. Immediately a variety of arguments against the Protocol were discovered in Greece, and the Chamber refused to ratify it.

The Problem Still Unsolved.

It was the situation created by the Greek refusal to ratify the Protocol with which Mr. Chamberlain had to deal as "rapporteur" at the Council meeting on March 14. He disposed at once of the contention that the terms of the Protocol were in any way in contradiction with the general dispositions of the Minorities Treaties, and announced that a *questionnaire* would be addressed to the Greek Government, calling for a statement of the steps taken to carry out the provisions of those treaties. Greece, he stated, would be invited to say what measures had already been taken to this end, what it was proposed to do further, what were the needs of the Slav-speaking minorities in regard to religion and public education, and what measures had been adopted or were to be adopted to meet these needs. M. Venizelos replied at once by pleading guilty on behalf of Greece and admitting that Mr. Chamberlain's criticisms were justified. The Greek Government's intentions, however, were correct, and he urged that it would be better able to give effect to those intentions if the Protocol were out of the way. Whether the Council of the League is of a contrary opinion or not, it is hardly likely that it will call upon Greece to ratify an agreement which is liable to embroil her with Yugoslavia. The business of discovering a satisfactory solution of the minorities problem, therefore, remains. The whole incident emphasises the necessity that any Balkan settlement, to be effective, should be imposed from without. The Protocol represented a wise attempt on the part of Greece and Bulgaria to settle the differences between them, and it encountered the opposition of Yugoslavia. If the principle embodied in the Protocol had been imposed in the first instance by the League of Nations the Yugoslav Government would, presumably, have raised no objection.

The Yugoslav Elections.

The Yugoslav Government has decided to annul the Parliamentary mandates of the Croatian Peasant Party, the followers of M. Raditch, on the ground that the leader has been guilty of conspiracy with Soviet Russia and of favouring the detachment of Macedonia from Yugoslavia. In a matter of this nature public opinion in Great Britain will have difficulty in understanding Yugoslav procedure, and it will be of interest to have a

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full statement of the reasons that have prompted the decision. If the Courts had passed sentence on M. Raditch and other leaders of the party, it would follow, as a matter of course, that they forfeit their seats in Parliament; but that the whole party should be proscribed after the individual members had been allowed to stand for election seems a drastic course to adopt. The immediate effect will be, if, as is stated, the vacant seats are not to be filled by further elections, that the Government, instead of a majority of nine, will have one of over fifty. Such a majority may facilitate the business of the Skupshtina, if a quorum is available, but whether the cause of Yugoslav unity will be promoted must be left an open question. At the moment of writing it appears that the Verifications Committee of the Skupshtina, on which the Government is represented by a majority, will make the formal pronouncement in regard to the fate of the Raditch mandates. As a preliminary step it has called for a fuller statement of the Government's views. In the meantime the Opposition *bloc* threatens to take no part in the proceedings of Parliament if the mandates are annulled.

The Kurdish Rising.

The revolt in Kurdistan continues, with varying results as far as the activities of the rebels are concerned. Taking advantage of the numerical weakness of the Turkish troops, they are endeavouring to make as much headway as possible before a new Turkish army appears on the scene; but it does not appear from the reports available that the movement is characterised by any serious attempt at organisation. Attacks are made on different towns, and when repulsed Sheikh Said turns his attention elsewhere. In the meantime the Turkish Government is completing its preparations for dealing with the rebellion. With the prospect of an army of fifty thousand or more being mobilised to cope with the Kurds, it is inevitable that the new situation created by the presence of a force of this strength at no very great distance from the Iraq frontier should come up for comment in various quarters. There will be some who will be convinced that the Turks are deliberately adding to the force required for the subjugation of the Kurds in order to have an imposing concentration as near as possible to the Mosul vilayet. Even if this were true it would not necessarily follow that the troops were seriously intended for use in this direction. Turkish action in any given set of circumstances is not easy to gauge, for the reason that the policy of Angora seems to depend to a large extent on the faction that happens to be exercising at the moment the paramount influence over the Government. Left to itself, neither a Cabinet headed by Fethi Bey nor one under Ismet Pasha would wish for an open breach with Great Britain. The satisfaction of Turkish claims in regard to the Mosul vilayet would undoubtedly simplify the future for the Turkish Government, and it is probable that the latter is genuinely perturbed by the prospect of having to evolve a new policy to fit in with the permanent loss of a part of Kurdish territory. But between this attitude and a resolve to fight for the retention of the territory in question there is a wide gulf. As, therefore, Great Britain has no other desire than to live on good terms with Turkey, it is to be hoped that an adverse decision of the Commission of the League of Nations to the Turkish claim will be followed immediately by an attempt on the part of the British Government to simplify Turkey's problem by providing compensatory advantages in some other sphere.

INDIA.

The Reforms Inquiry.

The report of the Committee which last year investigated the working of the reformed Constitution is so closely in accord with the forecasts made in the autumn that it calls for very little comment, and the interesting question now is, What results are likely to follow? Some of our Indian contemporaries have been hoping for a definite pronouncement this month, but it does not now appear probable that things can move so quickly as all that, for the Viceroy is due to arrive in April to confer with the Secretary of State, and there cannot be very much to talk about except the action to be taken on the report. That brings us close to Whitsuntide before the subject can be debated in the House of Commons, and so we get nearly round the year. We are entirely in agreement with our contemporaries in wanting to see the whole thing out of the way as soon as possible, but, even more than this, we want to have a final pronouncement by a Parliament in possession of all the facts, and of the matured views of the Cabinet, and we are content to wait a little longer if the result is to let Indians know exactly how they stand.

The Acting Governor.

The Act passed last year to allow high officers to come home on leave has evidently met a want, and during part of this summer India will have an acting Viceroy in Simla and four acting Governors in the provinces. The orderly arrangements for filling the temporary vacancies have unfortunately been marred by the claim so vigorously put forward in Bengal that the Governorship should devolve by strict seniority in accordance with an imaginary practice. There is, of course, no precedent, for, while leave to Governors is itself a new institution, the position of Governor under the Constitution is entirely different from what it was in the old bureaucratic days, and very much more difficult. If ever there was a case for unfettered freedom to choose the best man available it is to be found in Bengal just now, and we welcome Lord Winterton's clear declaration that no general practice exists to limit the selection. We wish the Government would go a little further on this road, and cut itself free once for all from the conventions, and practices, and precedents regarding high appointments which it has weakly allowed to grow up. Possibly things have gone too far for that, but, at any rate, something will be gained if the stand now taken prevents the forging of any additional fetters.

The Cotton Excise.

The Legislative Assembly has missed its chance in connection with the cotton excise, a large majority having voted for yielding to the sectional clamour for reduction, to the prejudice of the general interest of the country, which requires that the provinces should be relieved of their financial liabilities to the Central Government before any remission of taxes is effected. The incident shows the Assembly at its worst, as a closed circle, working in isolation, and entirely out of touch with the constituencies. If the voters in the provinces were a little further on such a result would be absolutely impossible, but they have not yet realised their power, and it is even doubtful whether at the next election they will call their representatives to account for what, from their point of view, is a direct betrayal of their interests. For the present, therefore, members from Madras or the United Provinces are free to place their votes at the service of Bombay, and to put

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obstacles in the way of the Government, which is working for the benefit of their constituents. Probably some of them expect, and hope, that the Government will over-rule them, and yet the same men clamour for responsibility. We could wish that they showed some signs of knowing what that blessed word means in practice.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Premier's Appeal.

Mr. Baldwin has not sat still upon his triumphant speech in the House of Commons, but has since reiterated his theme in the country at large. He is, of course, out to save the present industrial system, and he is appealing to all minds, of whatever class, to co-operate with him. In many quarters there has been a heartening response; but the doctrinaire Socialists have quickly repudiated his attack upon their ideal.

The Socialists, however, do not greatly matter. They themselves would never rid us of Capitalism, and, in any case, State Capitalism is a thing which this country is resolved not to have. The real danger to those of Mr Baldwin's opinions comes from the Syndicalists: it is between such reactionaries and revolutionaries as are these that understanding is desirable. Very considerable interest incidentally attaches to an experiment about to be made in a North Wales colliery. There, for three months, the men are to allow themselves to run things. If this test is successful, much more may be heard of Syndicalism than for a long time past.

Road Bridges.

It can hardly be a coincidence that the spirit of culture which is implicit in the Prime Minister's more considerable speeches and actions finds a worthy supplement in the actions of the departments of his Administration. The Ministry of Transport, for instance, have just issued instructions concerning the alteration or the building of bridges carrying roads over streams or watercourses for which everyone with a love of beauty must be profoundly grateful. It appears that Colonel Ashley's Department, although local highway authorities have, before they can get a grant from the Central Road Fund, to comply with certain regulations, has discovered certain of them have nevertheless contrived to offend the artistic sense of the country. This department, therefore, is in the future going to be satisfied on artistic grounds as well as on grounds of efficiency before it parts with money to the local authorities. This certainly is progress.

Recruiting for the Army.

The War Office is rather pessimistic over the way in which recruits are now joining the colours, and the decrease in the numbers is attributed to war weariness, emigration, and the dole. It has, however, been contradicted, and commentators have observed, with much show of justice, that the War Office does not take into account the recruits who have gone to the Air Force, nor the fact that Ireland is no longer a source of recruits. As a matter of fact, General Sir Frederick Maurice has estimated that on the whole recruiting has over a long period of years of peace remained fairly constant. In any case, one can hardly convince oneself that those youths who were only twelve at the end of the War are war-weary; and emigration has scarcely become as yet so attractive an idea as to make it preferable to service in the Army. The General's explanation of the trouble is that "we are continually asking the Army to undertake more than under a system of voluntary recruiting it can safely attempt."

Summer Time.

At last the reform known as Summer Time has become permanent with us. Last week the second reading of the Summer Time Bill easily passed through the Commons. What debate there was upon it centred mainly round two things—the economies which the War showed could be effected by the adoption of Summer Time, and the advantage that town-dwellers can gain from it for indulgence in the open air. Opposition to it was thin, and came for the most part from "interests" (chiefly agricultural) and from cranks. There must, of course, be some genuine cases in which hardship is inflicted, and these will probably be considered in Committee; but, as a whole, one sympathises more with the cranks than with the "interests." The old spirit that regards this tampering with the clock as the violation of one's duly allotted span is not quite dead, and is, after all, rather delightful.

Budgetary Prospects.

To the ordinary man, who is bewildered when he reads of millions of pounds, Budget estimates hold out only one exciting prospect—reduction of the income-tax. I cannot pretend to any mastery of Exchequer figures, and can but ignorantly record the existence both of optimism and of pessimism in regard to income-tax. The pessimists profess themselves the more accurate mathematicians—they point out that the ex-Chancellor, Mr. Snowden, budgeted only for a surplus of £4,000,000, that he gave remissions of taxes the full effect of which will not be felt till next year, that penny postage is out of the question, and that cheaper beer is a myth. The optimists pride themselves on their psychology—they think it impossible for Mr. Churchill to let slip so wonderful an opportunity for popularity. Quite often, of course, men's prospects vary in accordance with the "views" of the newspapers which they look at.

The Free State Stabilising.

Fears that the Republicans were once again getting the upper hand in Ireland were pleasantly set back last week when, at the nine by-elections, seven Ministerial candidates were returned. This is indeed a healthy sign. It implies in no way, of course, that Mr. Cosgrave's Administration is popular—there is, in fact, a good deal of evidence to the contrary: but it does tend to prove that Irishmen as a whole are tired of the futile De Valeran tactics, and prefer even the ills that heavy taxes bring to the wanton, wasting methods of the Republicans.

Ireland in Scotland.

It seems true that parts of what used to be called "the British Isles" are becoming increasingly less known. Generalisations upon Ireland are, of course, always looked upon with suspicion, for the reason that they cannot justly be made. English ignorance of Scotland, again, is a very real thing. If there were two things concerning Scotland about which the Englishman is certain they are the unreality of Scottish nationalism and the presence of the Irish as the disturbers of peace on the Clyde. In discussions upon "the Scottish problem" or on Scottish affairs in general one always, sooner or later, meets these two assumptions.

But if the *Observer*, which is publishing a series of articles on the subject, is to be believed, neither of them is true. The spirit of Scottish nationalism, derided a little by comfortable Englishmen or by Scotsmen living in comfort in England, is, accord-

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ing to this paper, "unmistakably rising"; and the idea that Irishmen dominate Clyde politics is dismissed as "a sheer hallucination." In Glasgow, in fact, the Labour movement is said to be controlled by the purest type of Westland Whig.

These opinions are, I think, worth noting.

Abnormal Cases.

I am not so far a regressive as to suppose that the orgy of murder, divorce, and blackmail cases in which we are now indulging is a normal affair, although there are those who affirm that men and women of the type which is now adorning the picture pages of most journals is far commoner than is supposed. But it is very wearying to find, night after night, the same unsavoury headlines in the evening papers, not one of which is not now devoting its major space to the cases in question. It is still possible to find an odd morning paper or two which does not fling the past of Mr. —— or Mrs —— in your face; but this nauseating stuff one cannot in an evening paper avoid.

Can it be that men's morals become a little less strict in the daytime that no journal can arise of an afternoon that shall eschew the more hectic and decadent proceedings of the law courts?

Watching St. Paul's.

The St. Paul's muddle is not yet quite clear. For, although in respect of the present activities of the Cathedral authorities the City of London Corporation has suspended its "dangerous structure" notice, it obviously is still a little fearful of the possibilities of the situation. The Corporation intends very carefully to watch how the repairs are being done and of the various conditions of the Dome. It may be that many years will elapse before the public is really rid of the scare that was made on it in so untimely, or at least undue, fashion.

Disappearing England.

It is quite probable that holiday-makers visiting the less pampered parts of England next summer will find some of the sights to which they had become accustomed gone for ever. For the continuous gales and heavy rains of the last few months have altered considerably the geographical outline of England from Yorkshire to Cornwall. Gone, for instance, is much of the foreshore round Spurn Point—the coast line between the Humber and Bridlington Bay has always been peculiarly exposed to the onslaught of the elements—and the sea is now menacing the Kilnsea coast, and may, I am told, cut through to Sunk Island, to make of Spurn Point an island.

On the Suffolk coast, again, Aldeburgh, which has so many literary associations, has been having a very bad time; it stands, of course, a few miles south of the once thriving but now submerged port of Dunwich. Aldeburgh's Town Hall, which used to be yards away from the sea, separated from it by several occupied streets, in fact, is now anxiously facing it.

It is the same story at Sidmouth, in Devon, in the eastern and western end of the Isle of Wight (the road between Bouldnor and Yarmouth is in a state of collapse), and on the road between Plymouth and Downderry.

The national loss of land by coast erosion is about 2,000 acres per annum, on the average; but this year it is much higher. In many places coast defences have been broken in which have little prospect of being repaired.

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NEWS FROM PALESTINE.

In the issue of The Near East of March 5, "a telegraphic agency in Palestine" was made solely responsible for the report, subsequently contradicted, of an invasion of Transjordan by a force of 10,000 Wahhabis. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which sent the report, calls attention to the fact that, in the form in which the report was sent out by the Agency, it was clearly stated that the information was derived from the Nejd Ambassador at Damascus. We regret that this point was not appreciated at the time when reference was made to the report.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador to Turkey, left Constantinople for Angora last Saturday, and presented his letters of credence to Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha on March 16.

Bulgaria has requested the Conference of Ambassadors to authorise her to enrol temporarily 4,000 extra soldiers in order to enable the Government to deal with any trouble provoked by Communists.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe and Lady Jellicoe, who have been making a stay in Egypt, were among the passengers who arrived last Friday at Marseilles in the steamship China. They afterwards left for London.

According to the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent, the Patriarch on March 11 telegraphed to the Metropolitans in Constantinople severely censuring them for negotiating a solution of the Patriarchal question without his consent, and declining to accept such a procedure.

The Italian Professor Ugo Monneret, who has been engaged for some time in excavations near Aswan, has unearthed a church belonging to the Monastery of St. Simeon, states Reuter's Aswan correspondent, dating from the eighth century, also a large quantity of papyri and a valuable collection of Coptic pottery.

The Air Ministry announces that the remains recently discovered in the desert in Iraq have been definitely identified as those of Flight Lieutenant William Conway Day, M.C., and Flying Officer Donald Ramsay Stewart, who were reported missing after making a forced landing on the morning of July 24, 1924.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary for Air, and Mr. Amery, Colonial Secretary, who are going to Iraq to see the working of the system of control from the air without occupation, leave London to-day for Port Said, via Marseilles. From Egypt they will go on by air, leaving Ismailia about March 27 for Baghdad. Three weeks will be spent in Iraq.

Sir Eric Drummond, as Secretary-General of the League of Nations, has been authorised by the Council to take steps to obtain the adhesion of the following countries to the Second Opium Conference Convention:—Andorra, Afghanistan, Hejaz, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Soviet Russia, San Marino, and the Sudan.

A football match played on March 8 at Beyrout between a British military team from Palestine and a team from the French Army of the Levant resulted in the defeat of the French by 14 points to 3. On the previous evening General and Mme. Sarrail gave a dinner for Air Commodore E. L. Gerard, A.O.C. Palestine Command, and the members of the team.

According to the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent a motor-car containing four students of the American and one of the British Archæological School was fired at between Arta and Amphilochia on March 10. One American student, Mr. Logan, was slightly wounded. The Premier on receipt of the news immediately had both Legations informed that measures had been taken to capture the miscreants.

Reuter reports from Cairo, under date March 10, that Mr. Cecil Firth, of the Department of Antiquities, has made another interesting find in the Sakkara Necropolis. Excavating south-eastward from the famous Step Pyramid or the Pyramid of Zoser, he has found a large building which is probably the temple of the pyramid. The fluted columns found elsewhere here are again to be seen in this building.

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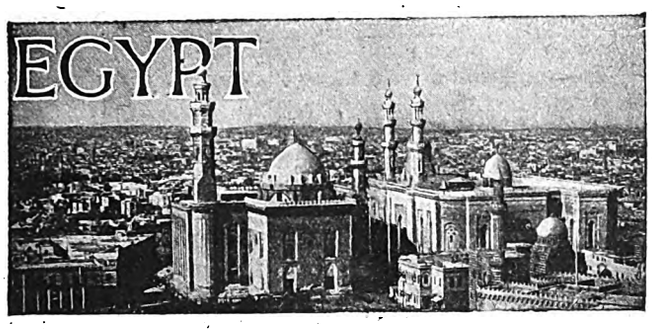
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, March 8.

The Government's Election Cry.

"Sidky and stability, or Saad and slippery shuffling" is the way in which the anti-Wafd forces, with the Government at their head, are putting before the electors the issue to be settled next Thursday. The idea of security, security for life, property, and position, is being played up for all it is worth, as being the one great boon which the present Ministry has brought the country. A forcible contrast is drawn with the latter months of the Zaghloulist Ministry's life, when student bands roamed the streets and provinces, when imaginary plots against the Throne were the excuse for daily arrests and raids, and when Opposition newspapers and writers were in receipt of constant summonses to answer in a court of law for their opinions. And this stability plank in the Ministry's programme certainly carries an appeal to the responsible classes of the country. In some ways the present Government's policy towards its opponents has borne a strong resemblance to the undisguised persecution which, during last year, was meted out to enemies of the Wafd. But under the Zaghloulist Ministry political opponents were hounded down on account of their previous actions, and recourse was had to mob action to deal out the revenge which had been decided upon. Crowds of ruffians were sent to burn down Opposition newspaper offices, and, as recently published documents have shown, the police were ordered not to interfere. The present Ministry, on the other hand, has not troubled anyone who has not, by violent opposition, made himself conspicuous, and however dubious may have been some of the measures taken, they were at least always carried out by agents of the law, and so have had anyhow the appearance of legality.

The Election's Result.

How next Thursday's voting will go few people are bold enough to predict. In circles frequented by political wiseacres the mean of the various views would probably be that there will not be very much—not more than ten or fifteen seats—in it either way, and that the odd fifteen will probably be on the Zaghloulist side. In this connection it is interesting to note that, according to the Ministry of the Interior's figures, there are thirty-three constituencies with no Zaghloulist candidate. The number of constituencies with only one candidate is twenty, of which seven have been secured by the Independents, six by the Unionists, five by the Zaghloulists, and two by the Liberal Constitutionals.

A Melodramatic Story.

A story of sheer melodrama, with plots, poison (in the form of vitriol), and financial wickedness in high places is wrapped around the struggle for possession of the property of Count Sakkakini, a very wealthy Syrian, who died a year ago, and left as sole apparent heir a young man whose origin was known to nobody but himself, but who had for many years been the old man's companion and confidant, and who was generally accepted as a natural son. The cousins of Count Sakkakini, however, were not prepared to surrender their claims without a struggle, and, by means of extensive inquiries, were able to disprove the alleged relationship between the dead old man and the living young one. It would take too long to recount all the subsequent developments, of which one of the most sensational was the vitriol attack on Sheikh Maraghi, who, as President of the Superior Mekhemeh Sharia, was to have heard the appeal from the lower Court's judgment dispossessing the so-called Sakkakini, junior. Now another turn of the affair has involved Hamed Pasha el Bassel and his brother Abdel Sattar el Bassel, both prominent supporters of the Wafd, of which Hamed Pasha is Vice-President. Both have been closely interrogated by the Parquet, and, according to the *Siyassa*, both are to be tried at the next Cairo Assizes on the charge of having accepted bribes in return for a promise to influence the tribunal hearing the Sakkakini case.

The Winter Season.

Our winter season is now at its height, and the visitors now here or in Upper Egypt include not only a fair sprinkling of those whose names are to be found in Debrett, but also a quite representative selection from the Almanach de Gotha and "Who's Who in America," into the bargain. To judge by the remarks heard in the hotels, Egypt's attractions as a winter resort still compare favourably with those of any other country. One visitor, in particular, is showing his appreciation in tangible fashion. This is Mr. J. B. Joel, who has presented a five hundred guinea cup to the Jockey Club of Egypt, and has promised to send out a string of horses to carry his colours round Cairo courses next winter.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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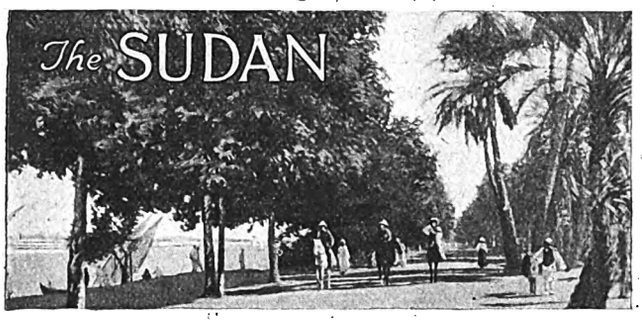

Khartoum, February 24.

A Mutiny Echo.

Two soldiers of the Egyptian Army, by name Zimam Salem and Sif el Din Tahn, who were tried by a Mudir's Court, which had been convened at Omdurman during the past week, have been sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. This sentence has not yet been confirmed by the Governor-General. Both of these men were implicated in the shooting affray, and other disturbances, which occurred in Omdurman on the night of November 28, the second evening of the mutiny. They were at the time undergoing a short period of imprisonment at the Military Prison, Khartoum, and were among the number released by the 11th Sudanese Battalion mutineers on the previous evening. By eluding the local police they succeeded in getting through to Omdurman, where they had, by some unknown means, procured arms and ammunition, and, thus equipped, they began shooting. As a result two civilians of the town were killed. These two men also looted a number of shops and stole a considerable sum of money.

It is understood that the larger trial of persons connected with the White Flag Society, to which reference has been made in a previous letter, is still in progress. The Court is being held at the Central Prison, Khartoum North.

Kassala Cotton Company.

A notice has been published in the local Press, signed by the manager of this company, that all this year's cotton is to be sold by auction at Port Sudan. The first arrival of the crop will be ready for disposal on March 6. It is reported that the quality of the cotton is much better than in previous years, being much firmer and of a larger staple. Local cotton merchants and other Alexandria houses are extremely pleased at such a decision of the company, as otherwise the Tokar crop would be the only open cotton market in the Sudan for any cotton other than rain-grown. It should also benefit the company, as it will avoid the expenses necessarily attached to shipping and disposing of their own stocks. Should the prices obtained by these auctions prove satisfactory, it is anticipated that the larger Cotton Company, the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, will dispose of their crops in a similar manner next year, which will all be to the good of the country.

Massed Bands Concert.

Probably for the first time in the history of the Sudan the native inhabitants resident in Khartoum were really regaled by a concert given by the massed bands and drums of three British battalions forming the present Garrison. The performance took place in an open space called "Mosque Square," where, under the pale light cast by an early moon, a most picturesque scene was presented. One could not but notice it—on the one side rose the majestic spires of the Sudan's largest Mohammedan Mosque, perfect in its silhouette; on the other a row of native houses with the womenfolk flitting here and there in their dark blue piece-cloth, which forms their wearing apparel. In another direction one saw the more modern *suq* or market, where native market produce vendors were busy placing their fresh supplies in order and readiness for the early morning business; some working in almost darkness, whilst others, more affluent, had candles. Lastly, there were the rows of coffee shops, where the men squatted and either ate pea-nuts or smoked the long *sheesha* or native pipe.

The mounted police, by riding up and down a given area, caused the native spectators to form into a rough circle, and before the programme was begun there were approximately four thousand natives assembled in quiet expectancy.

The bands, consisting of the Leicesters, Dorsets, and East Lancashires, gave a most excellent selection of music, which was appreciated by the native audience; but, even so, they much preferred the drums, which, numbering nearly one hundred, were most effective. The roll of these instruments was something they really understood, as it resembled the sound of their own crude "tom toms," and their expressions of delight were most pleasing to see.

The concert was a great success, and though the units composing the British Garrison must necessarily change, year by year, one trusts that the military authorities will continue this form of entertainment by making it a Garrison order.

Sir Geoffrey Archer on Tour.

During the fortnight under review the Governor-General, accompanied by General Huddleston and by his personal staff, has made a tour through the Eastern Sudan. Starting from Khartoum he proceeded by train to Wad Medani and thence to Kashm-el-Girba, Gedaref, and Kassala by car. From Kassala His Excellency proceeded to Suakin, Tokar, and Port Sudan in the Red Sea Province. At Port Sudan an inspection of the whole town was made, as well as the plan of the new harbour extensions, which the Sudan Equipment and Construction Company, recently floated in London, will carry out. From the Red Sea Province Sir Geoffrey Archer journeyed to Atbara, where he inspected the offices and workshops of the Government Railways; and, having completed the programme, again entrained for Khartoum, where he arrived last Monday morning.

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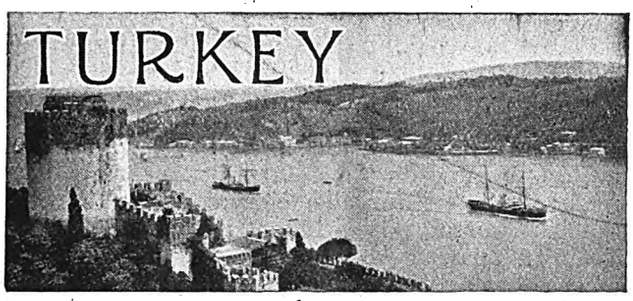

Constantinople, March 10.

Ismet Pasha Again.

Ismet Pasha, who, among Turkey's statesmen is considered as the first, chief, and strongest, has again taken up the reins of government, with a party Cabinet specially chosen for the execution of a predetermined policy necessitated by the present internal situation. The Kurdish movement, having been diagnosed as possessing a premeditated and reactionary character, was accepted by a strong majority as calling for far more severe and effective measures than those adopted by Fethi Bey.

The Fethi Régime.

Fethi Bey's second term of office, which has been dogged by ill-luck, has been one utterly devoted to the promotion of national interests by a policy often considered excessive in its moderation. His unyielding attitude to party pressure has not improved a position usually described as weak, and his replacement by his predecessor amounts to nothing more than a slight precipitation of a natural course of events.

New Measures.

The closing of several Constantinople and provincial daily newspapers and the constitution of two Tribunals of Independence are the first results of the application of the severe measures adopted by the new Ministry to calm down the situation and preserve public order and tranquillity. The *Aksham* describes the reactionary movement of March 31, which broke out after the proclamation of the Constitution, as mere child's play in comparison with the Ghendj incident. In any case, the Government's measures are demonstrative of its firm determination once and for all to crush out the much-abused religious incitement to rebellion. The Tribunal of Independence which is to be constituted in the disturbed regions leaves Angora today for its first objective in that area, and exemplary punishment will no doubt fall to the lot of those guilty of treasonable crimes. The Government's action regarding the Press has constituted a much-needed brake on the Constantinople portion, and has evoked an avowal from one proprietor-editor to leave future politics, in every form, severely alone. According to the latest news published by the official organ, the *Anatolian Agency*, a considerable portion of the repressive forces have arrived on the scene, and the success reported from Diarbekir is stated to be only a prelude to the planned thorough annihilation of Sheikh Said's forces.

GREECE.

Athens, March 2.

The Patriarchal Question.

M. Venizelos' refusal to represent the Greek Government at the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations which will deal with the Patriarchal question has caused profound disappointment in this country. The Cretan's refusal is, however, quite comprehensible. The Powers have diplomatically refrained from effectively interfering in the Patriarchal question, and their lukewarm attitude naturally encouraged the Turks to give to the Lausanne Treaty the interpretation which best suits their policy.

Turks in Greece and Kurdistan.

The Kurdish movement in Turkey is naturally being followed with much interest in this country. The anti-Kemalist Turks who have sought refuge in Greece consider the position serious, and attach special importance to the appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the governmental forces of Ismet Pasha, and to his intention of naming General Kemaleddin Sami Pasha, Minister in Berlin, Chief of the General Staff. The disquieting feature of the situation is, it is pointed out, not the proportions which the Kurdish movement may perhaps take, nor the geographical position of Kurdistan in regard to the Soviet Republics on this side of the Caucasus, and to Iraq. The real enemies of the Angora Government, say the anti-Kemalists, are to be found amongst the masses which the Kemalist militarists believed they could imbue with ideas and principles diametrically opposed to their character and to their religious doctrines. The flag of the Sheri—the Sacred Mohammedan Law—is flying in the vilayets where the Kurds have revolted. The enemies of the Kemalists who call the Faithful to prayer from the minarets are, it is thought here, far more dangerous than those on the snowclad mountains in the vilayet of Diarbekr.

The Græco-Yugoslav Treaty.

It is stated in responsible quarters that the preliminary conversations between M. Caclamanos and M. Gavrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister, for a new Græco-Yugoslav Treaty have ended in the drawing up of a draft treaty which, it is hoped, will meet with the approval of the Belgrade Government. The negotiations will probably be resumed in Belgrade towards the end of this month.

Greek Debts to England.

The Athens papers are dealing with the question of the Greek debts to England in connection with the settlement of which the late M. Gounaris had signed two documents when the deceased statesman last visited London. By one of these documents the then Premier gave up every claim for the payment of the war credits. By the other document M. Gounaris engaged to settle by the issue of Treasury bonds Greece's debt to England in connection with the use of the Allies' war material. M. Gounaris, it is said, undertook this latter engagement, in spite of an agreement reached between the Allies that negotiations for the settlement of debts relating to the use of war

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material would be opened after the cessation of hostilities.

As regards the war credits, the Greek Government argues that the engagement taken by M. Gounaris does not settle that question, inasmuch as the war credits would have been paid to the National Bank, which had issued paper currency against them. And upon the other war debts the Greek Government is of opinion that this question can only come under discussion in common with other similar questions interesting all the Allies.

PERSIA.

Teheran, February 11.

The Political Situation.

Ever since the agitation in favour of a republic died down last March and the movement was squashed, temporarily at least, by the Prime Minister's proclamation that further discussion of the question, as tending to create internal discord, must be dropped, it has been an interesting question how long Sardar Sepah would be content to remain in his present high position of virtual dictator, wielding a power throughout the country hardly, if ever, before surpassed, or even equalled, by any previous Prime Minister of recent years, under the purely nominal orders of an absent Shah, resident for the past two years in Europe, whose only interest in his country is, apparently, the regular payment of his Civil List. It is a long time since the Shah has been consulted by the Prime Minister or Parliament on any subject of national importance. His birthday and the anniversary of his accession to the throne (which fell only a few days ago) are no longer observed as public holidays here, and the Crown Prince, as Regent, remains very much in the background, and has for a long time past attended no public functions. It came, therefore, as a surprise to everyone when it was announced that he would hold a "Salaam" at the Palace last Saturday, the anniversary of the birth of Amir-el-Momenin, the Prophet's son-in-law, observed as a religious holiday, and speculation was rife as to whether the Prime Minister, whose invariable duty it has always been to support his Sovereign at such functions in the past, would be present, in view of the fact that since his return from the South on January 1 Sardar Sepah had ignored the Crown Prince and had never been to visit him. As anticipated, the Prime Minister did not present himself, pleading as an excuse for his absence the death of a prominent member of his staff the previous day, due to a fall from his horse while out shooting. The next day Sardar Sepah proceeded to the Parliament, where, at a private session, he delivered what was practically an ultimatum to the deputies, stating that he could no longer carry on the government of the country under the present unsatisfactory conditions of being nominally under a Shah, who is a mere figurehead, living abroad, bearing a time-honoured but at present empty title, and refusing to return to his own country. They must decide whether they still wish to recognise Ahmad Shah as head of the State or entrust its government to himself. In that case they must agree to any proposals he would have to make to them later on, and he gave them until the following Thursday to come to a decision and report the result to him. Needless to say, this bombshell caused great consternation and perturbation among the deputies, the majority of whom, as was shown at the time of the republican agitation last year, are still loyal to the Shah.

Interesting Excavations.

Considerable interest was recently aroused by the announcement in the local Press of the reported discovery by some peasants digging in the vicinity of the ancient city of Rhay, some few miles to the south of Teheran, of a mummified body. The Ministry of Public Works sent a representative to the spot, as also did the Mejliss, to investigate and report, and the Military Governor was ordered to guard the place. It was later found that the remains were in no way mummified, but apparently consisted of portions of limbs, skulls, and so on, found in large wooden coffins, in which were also found fragments of fine silk cloth and a long, narrow, thin glass bottle, all of which were brought in to town. One of the skulls, which has been taken to the Prime Minister's house, contains no fewer than thirty-eight teeth, in which lies its chief interest, and the coffin, which I have seen, is some 10 or 12 ft. long by 4 or 5 ft. broad, made of hard wood about 2 in. thick. This was apparently found in a cave in the hillside, near the Parsees' "Tower of Silence." At present, in the absence of anyone sufficiently versed in such matters, it is difficult to say to what period these remains belong. The place is now in charge of the military to prevent any further interesting discoveries being removed by unauthorised persons.

The Weather.

The cold spell still continues, though not so intense as a short time ago, when a minimum of 25 deg. of frost was registered here. This compared with 107 deg., the highest shade temperature last summer, a variation of some 100 deg. between winter and summer, illustrates the great extremes experienced in Teheran. Practically all over the country this has been the severest winter known for many years. Tabriz have had as much as 45 deg. of frost, and many deaths from exposure are reported on the high roads. Heavy snow has again fallen in Ghilan and Mazanderan, and it is feared that the orange crop will have suffered severely in consequence of the effect of the sharp frost on the orange trees.

General News.

The Swiss aviator, Herr Mittelholzer, who set out from Zurich some time ago to fly to Teheran arrived a fortnight ago, though not actually in Teheran. He apparently lost his direction when nearing the town and landed at the village of Veramin, some twenty miles to the south of the capital, his flight from Baghdad having taken just five hours. His aeroplane is a Junker.

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Near East Bookshelf.

"CITIES AND THRONES AND POWERS."

"THE VANISHED CITIES OF ARABIA." By Mrs. Steuart Erskine. (London: Hutchinson. 25s. net.)

Those who have read Mrs. Erskine's "Transjordan" will know that, whatever other qualifications the author may have for representing to us the past of Abdullah's kingdom, she certainly does not lack enthusiasm. "Transjordan" was really a lively series of impressions of the cities and country east of the Jordan; it did not profess to be profound in conjecture either of past or of future. This book, however, is a more considered attempt to people the towns of Transjordan, from Nabatæan times to Crusaders', and it is no reproach against it that Mrs. Erskine, by the line of her approach, has dealt rather with those who made the history of places like Petra, Amman, Madeba, Jerash, and so on. She has, in fact, achieved a quite readable historical sketch.

Although the country east of the Jordan has not been of paramount importance in religious history, politically its history is of immense significance. Even before its divisions were made—divisions which are known to Biblical students as Bashan (included in the district which has always, from pagan to Zionist times, been known as Hauran). Gilead, Ammon and Moab, and Edom—this country was important. For one thing, it was for long on the great trade routes between West and East, and on the route from the North and North-East to Mecca (a nodal point, of course, in pre-Islamic times), and it was the outpost of whatever civilisation lay to its west against the Arabian Desert on the East. Its story, then, from the period of the Megalithic people (there were troglodytes in Petra just as in Northern Central Anatolia) to that of the Crusaders, is full, although for the better part of a thousand years it has slumbered indifferently on. This abrupt end of Transjordan history is, incidentally, most curious, and was due to causes which we need not enumerate here. The Arabs of the desert, it appears, were but waiting, fatally and patiently, for the decline of Greece and of Rome, and, later, of the Moslem central authorities, to swarm over upon this fertile land, which, of course, is by nature in no way protected from them: they were beaten back but to come again. Will the history of the future, one wonders, have a different burden?

Mrs. Erskine begins her description with Petra, flame-red Petra, one of the most wonderful cities in the world, carved, like Siwa in North Africa, out of the desert rock. This she first peoples with the Nabataeans, an Arab nation of traders, like the Carthaginians, whose domains, stretching from the Red Sea to Damascus, were most prosperous in the century before and the century after Christ. Under Rome it kept its trading importance until rival Palmyra grew more convenient; under Islam a common shadow fell over it, until, for a brief period, it was lighted by the Crusaders. And after the thirteenth century, when Western Europe was so splendidly flowering, Petra simply vanished. Nothing was known of it until Burckhardt's visit in 1812. Now, of course, and largely owing to Mr. St. John Philby, it is one of the sights that no visitor to Transjordan is allowed to miss. Here, in Mrs. Erskine's description, its characteristics show out well, and the beauties and curiosities of things like the Khazne Furun, the Siq itself, the Roman theatre, the Corinthian tomb, the Temple of the Urn, the Deir, are both adequately and eagerly preferred. One sincerely echoes her hope that excavations may be carried out at Petra which shall reveal this enchanting city's secrets.

Passing on to Kerak, in Moab, Mrs. Erskine avails herself finely of the opportunity to depict the lives of the Crusaders. How Kerak would burn beacons to warn Jerusalem over the Dead Sea of the approach of the Saracens, how feudal castles were built and the feudal system was successfully imposed, how, if the Crusaders had held together, the Moslems might yet have been resisted, and how the old castle, still strong and grand on the precipitous hillside, conjured up for her the ghosts of the past—these things are among the best in the book.

The Dead Sea, the Cities of the Plain, the ruins of Aroer and of Machaerus, the Desert, with Chosroes II.'s Palace of M'Shita (just east of el-Kalat Ziza), we must pass over, to reach Madeba, a town so closely connected with the history of Christianity. Madeba, which once had a bishopric, fell, after Rome, into the blight which Islam brought to so many cities, and was only re-inhabited in 1881, when two thousand Christians from Kerak were settled there.

The story of Amman, the story, that is, of Raboth Ammon, of Philadelphia, and of Amman, is told with a wealth of historical illustration. Alone of all the vanished cities in Arabia which are described in this book, Amman still has life. Not only do the Circassians whom the Turks put there keep the place busy, but it is the Emir Abdullah's capital, and, of course, it is on the Cairo-Baghdad air route. Certainly it will become more and more important, especially so if the projected pilgrim motor service, Baghdad-Amman-Aqaba, be successfully launched.

Mrs. Erskine, having vividly shown the tale of Jerash, the old Gerasa, ends her book with an attempt to sum up the spiritual, literary, and general characteristics of the times immediately preceding and succeeding the birth of Christ, seeking to re-inform the lives of the people of Syria by reference to what happened with Greeks and Romans in more western towns like Athens, Rome, and Alexandria. It is a painstaking and worthy attempt, lacking, certainly, in proportion and in precision, but extremely interesting.

An effective epilogue, that balances the prologue which tells of the sun rising on Petra, leaves the sun setting on the Dead Sea.

As we have indicated, Mrs. Erskine has written a very fascinating book about a region too little

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explored. The subject of her study, moreover, will become more and not less important, and it may well be that her sketches will lead others to more profound research. In these circumstances it is possible to wish that she had tightened up her style somewhat, removing her wearisome "different to's," and "prefer rather than's," and such slips as allowed her to put the Prophet's Flight as having taken place in "July, 662." Above all—and one may hope that the defect will be remedied in the next edition, for her book certainly deserves more editions—maps are necessary, maps which shall show the pre-Christian, the Christian, and the present names of the places which she so enthusiastically describes or represents. An index, also, is highly desirable.

One final word. The book, which is admirably produced, is enriched very considerably by eight delightful colour and thirty-two graceful black-and-white illustrations, done by Major Benton-Fletcher when he was visiting Transjordan with Mrs. Erskine last year. Perhaps those alone who have visited the country will believe that his brush does not exaggerate, but that it powerfully calls up the old, strange beauties of dust-laden "thrones and cities and powers."

It may be—who knows?—that an Arab renaissance, with British help, is coming, in which the truth of Kipling's words may once more be proved :—

"Out of the spent and unconsidered Earth
The cities rise again."

LORD WOLSELEY.

"THE LIFE OF LORD WOLSELEY." By Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice and Sir George Arthur. With a Foreword by General Sir Reginald Wingate. (London: Heinemann. 25s.)

Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice and Sir George Arthur have collaborated in the production of this work. Joint-author books are not always a success, but in this there is no evidence of any "joinery," and the story, which is told in an easy and pleasant way, might have been the work of a single hand.

Wolseley's life almost gives us the military history of a period dating roughly from 1850 to 1913, which was singularly rich in wars and rumours of war. It carries us to Burma, the Crimea, India in Mutiny days, Canada, Ashanti, Natal, Cyprus, Egypt, and the Sudan. It was always regarded as a misfortune for Wolseley that he was never brought up against a really big antagonist. His military genius was never put to an extreme test. This may be true; nevertheless, he saw a great deal of actual, and also very picturesque and adventurous fighting. No man ever risked his life more frequently in battle and disease, but Wolseley lived to the age of eighty and died peacefully in his bed.

The most interesting and poignant chapters deal with the Sudan campaign of 1884-5 and the tragic failure to relieve Gordon. This failure was the more terrible to Wolseley, who commanded the ill-fated expedition, in that he reckoned Gordon amongst his dearest friends and ideal heroes. "Charles Gordon," he wrote, "was one of the very few friends who came up to my estimate of a Christian hero. When I first met him in the Crimea, he was a good-looking, curly-headed young man of my own age! his clear blue eyes seemed to court something, while at the same time they searched your inner soul. His absolute single-mindedness of purpose startled one at times, making one feel how inferior one was to him in all the higher qualities of character."

Nothing in the careful and well-documented account of this Sudan campaign tends to lighten the culpability of the British Government of those days. There was, no doubt, a misunderstanding between Gordon and the Government, Gordon believing he was sent out to "report" and the Government thinking his mission was to "evacuate." This confusion was, as the authors show, "the prime cause of Wolseley being agonised and Gordon sacrificed." But this does not condone the fatal delay in sending out the relief expedition. Whatever the mistakes may have been, the Government's duty, so soon as its envoy's life was in danger, was to go at once to the rescue. No wonder Gordon had no great regard for the Liberal Government, and that he broke out into such phrases as "Gladstone's self-opinionated ignorance."

Wolseley's great work as an army reformer receives full justice in this life-story. On almost all occasions he was opposed by the Duke of Cambridge, whom he afterwards succeeded as Commander-in-Chief, and on almost all occasions he was in the right. Yet the two men remained on terms of unhurt friendship and mutual respect.

Wolseley's ruling passion was his love for the British Empire. "I have but one great object in the world, and that is to maintain the greatness of our Empire. But, apart from my John Bull sentiment upon the point, I firmly believe in doing so I work in the cause of Christianity, of peace, of civilisation, and the happiness of the human race generally." His Imperialism was thus based on firm moral foundations.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Studies in Judaism" (third series), by S. Schechtes, M.A., Litt.D. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America).

"A Brief History of Civilisation." By John S. Hoyland, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. 6d. net. Best Edition 7s. 6d. net.)

"Old Testament Legends: From a Greek Poem on Genesis and Exodus." By Georgios Chumnos. Edited, with a translation, by F. H. Marshall. (London: Cambridge University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Arabic, the Language of Christ and the True Site of Calvary and of the Holy Sepulchre from Recent Discoveries." By Major R. A. Marriott, D.S.O. (London: H. R. Allenson, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"The Ahad Nameh." The Marker Literary Series for Persia, No. 1. (Bombay: The Iran League.)

"A Thousand Years of the Tartars." By E. H. Parker. With Five Illustrations and Maps. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Empire at War." Edited for the Royal Colonial Institute by Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. Vol. IV., Africa. (London: Humphrey Milford. 28s. net.)

"The Chaitanya Movement." By Melville T. Kennedy, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 6s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 19, 1925 (New Style).
March 6, 1925 (Old Style).
Shaaban 23, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar 23, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Stanley returned to London last Saturday from Egypt.

Lady Barker returned on March 14 to Lowndes House from Chessington.

Sir Arthur and Lady Schuster left London last Friday in the P. and O. ss. Moldavia for Port Said.

M. Constantine Laptew, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has taken up his residence at 42, Park Lane.

Sir John and Lady Vernon will return to 109, Lancaster Gate, from India towards the end of March.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nairn left London last Monday to join the Messageries Maritimes s.s. Lotus for Beyrout.

Mr. Idris Bell, M.A., lectured on "A Greek Adventurer in Egypt" at the Royal Society, Burlington House, last Tuesday.

Dame Louise Samuel left London last week for Palestine to stay with the High Commissioner. She will be absent about three months.

Sir Edwin Lutyens arrived at 13, Mansfield Street last Saturday from India. Lady Emily Lutyens has gone to Australia, and will be away until June.

The Roumanian Minister in London and Mme. Titulesco, who are spending a short holiday at St. Moritz, are expected to return to London at the end of this week.

Viscount Tarbat left London last Thursday in the P. and O. Express to join the s.s. Naldera at Marseilles for Bombay. Lieut.-General Sir John Shea also embarked at Marseilles.

We are glad to be able to announce that the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, who underwent an operation last week, has been making steady, although slow, progress towards recovery.

The Earl of Balfour, who is opening the new University of Jerusalem on April 1, left for Palestine last Sunday. He was accompanied by Major the Hon. Edward and Mrs. Lascelles.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Lieut.-Col. Sir Armine B. Dew will lecture on March 23, at 3.30 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on "Frontier Problems and Defence." Sir Louis William Dane will preside.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, gave a dinner-party last Thursday evening at Claridge's, at which the guests included Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Miss Enid and Mr. Ian McIlwraith, Miss Griffith, Monsieur and Madame Moustapha El-Sadek Bey, and Dr. Kamel Moursy Bey.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The *London Gazette* notifies that the King has appointed Mr. Andrew Ryan, C.M.G., to be Consul-General for the French zone of Morocco, to reside at Rabat. Mr. Ryan has held several diplomatic offices in Constantinople.

Following the appointment of the Hon. Ronald Lindsay as British Ambassador to Turkey, the Turkish Minister in London, Zekiai Bey, has been raised to the rank of Ambassador. He is now awaiting the arrival from Angora of his Letter of Credence.

OBITUARY.

The death is reported from Iraq of Major Harry Cuthbert Pulley, O.B.E., who died at Baghdad on March 8 from pneumonia, at the age of 42. He was one of the many Indian Army officers who have had a share in the great work of establishing Arab Governments in Iraq. He was transferred in 1902 to the Indian Army, being gazetted to the 2nd Bombay Pioneers. He served in Mesopotamia, and after the capture of Baghdad was lent to the Iraq Government for civil employment, but in 1918-19 he was in the operations in Persia. Returning to Baghdad, he served with distinction as assistant adviser to the Minister of the Interior, and in 1921 received the O.B.E.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1925.

EGYPT'S ELECTIONS.

The result of the Egyptian elections cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory. Official returns give the anti-Zaghloulists a majority, but it is not of large proportions. The Wafd, indeed, continues to protest that it has actually secured a majority of the seats in the Chamber, but this claim appears to ignore the action of a number of candidates who accepted nomination as Zaghloulists and subsequently announced their intention of supporting the Government. It may be that by the time the Chamber meets further defections from the Wafd will have taken place, with the result that the new Government will be able to count on a working majority, provided that it has the support of the Watanists. Compared with the composition of the late Parliament, in which there were 192 Zaghloulists or members on whose support Zaghloul Pasha could generally count and only twenty-two members of the Opposition, the present results argue a considerable change over to sanity on the part of the Egyptian electorate, with the prospect of a still greater discomfiture of the Wafd at the next appeal, if the Government is able in the meantime to give effect to legislation of which the country stands badly in need. In one direction the election would seem to have worked wonders already. In the course of a statement made by Zaghloul Pasha he is reported to have said that, whatever has happened in the past, he had now no hostility to Great Britain. His policy, he added, was an honest policy; it was to work not against the British people, but in the interests of his country. Conversion has come late in the day. Hitherto, unfortunately for Egypt, Zaghloul Pasha has refused to co-operate in any way with the British, and has consequently been working against the interests of his own country. It will be a great gain for Egypt if he now appreciates the fact that the former policy led only to disaster, and farther away from the goal to which he himself claimed to be moving. Great Britain has no wish to take sides in Egyptian party politics; but there are certain essential points of contact between Egyptian and British policy, and so long as these are studiously avoided by an Egyptian Government, as they were under Zaghloul's Pasha's régime, Great Britain has no alternative than to favour an Administration which, while not surrendering its judgment on any question, places co-operation with the British in the forefront of its programme.

The test of the new Government's hold upon the country will be its ability to break away from the domination of so-called foreign politics and to apply itself to urgently needed domestic legislation. Ever since Zaghloul Pasha assumed office as Prime Minister the only political question that has been canvassed in Egypt has been the relations of the country to Great Britain in their various ramifications. No party or section of public opinion considered it safe to broach any other subject, and accordingly Egyptian politics resolved itself into the ringing of changes in the vehemence with which the demand for the complete independence of Egypt and the Sudan (by which was meant the subordination of the Sudan to Egypt) and the evacuation of Egypt by British troops was put forward. Vital problems of social and economic development have been ignored. It would not have been safe to dwell upon them for fear that such action might lead to a denunciation for treasonable indifference to the country's "real" interests. Ziwar Pasha has already shown a tendency to abandon a policy that could only have the effect of setting back the clock in Egypt, and it is to be hoped that his new Ministry will take a strong stand in the matter. Egyptians endowed with any political sense at all must have appreciated the wisdom of proving the country's capacity to look after its own affairs before any attempt was made to obtain further concessions from Great Britain. Zaghloul Pasha, however, carried away with the initial success of his methods for dealing with the British occupation, could not distinguish between essentials and non-essentials. Reflection, or the most superficial inquiry, would have shown him that the only possible way of increasing Egyptian participation in the administration of the Sudan was to convince Great Britain that there would be no appreciable difference between Egyptian and British methods of government. He preferred tactics which not only accentuated the difference, but also proved that Egypt, in lending itself to the undermining of administrative authority, had not grasped the rudiments of governing an alien race.

A Coalition Ministry has been formed under Ziwar Pasha from among the anti-Zaghloulist parties, with the exception of the Watanists. The latter, although more extremely Nationalist than the Zaghloulists, are definitely opposed to Zaghloul Pasha on the strength of his administrative record, and, according to a statement of their leader, are prepared to support the new Government as long as it works in the interests of the country, particularly in internal questions. They could not bring themselves, however, to join Ziwar Pasha's Cabinet, and for this reason their support must always remain more problematical than that of the Unionist or the Constitutional Liberal Party. In these circumstances the position of the Government in the face of the single homogeneous party forming the Opposition can hardly be very secure unless further secessions from the Wafd take place. Zaghloul Pasha's strength in the past has rested on three things, his own personal prestige, the intimidation exercised by his followers, and the skilful elimination of all other political questions than that of Egypt's relations to Great Britain. The result of the elections indicates that the first of these supports has been shaken; the second should be rapidly undermined by the continuance of Sidky Pasha's tenure of the Ministry of the Interior; the third automatically ceases to exist as soon as the Government can bring its programme up for discussion in the Assembly. The one hope for the country seems to lie in the degree of courage that the new Government can bring to bear upon its conduct of affairs. If it tries to join battle with the Zaghloulists on ground of their own choosing—that is to say, Anglo-Egyptian relations, particularly in regard to the Sudan—it may court disaster; if, on the other hand, it is bold enough to say that this subject shall be taboo for a few years, until independent Egypt has set her own house in order, it will be able to divert public attention from an unprofitable controversy to matters of more vital concern and of greater educational value to a people aspiring to graduate in Parliamentary honours.

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A MIDDLE EASTERN TOUR.—V.

BY ARTHUR CARR.

(*Continued from page 252.*)

The Frontier.

I left Garany at 6.30 a.m., November 3, and arrived at the Persian frontier Customs House at 2 p.m. All the morning I had been looking at the rounded, snow-covered peak of Mt. Ararat, looming more than 16,000 ft. into the clouds. I stayed at this village, called, I believe, "Avagoukh," as the guest of the Inspector of Customs. I was once more to experience Persian hospitality. In spite of the utter wretchedness of this village and the bareness of the mud house which was the temporary home of the Inspector, I spent a very pleasant evening. The Inspector (whose name I do not even know) had a good meal prepared and served in European fashion, which I thoroughly enjoyed. My host spoke French perfectly, and I soon found he was well educated. The meal finished, coffee was brought along with cigarettes, and soon French and English literature were being discussed with zest and, on my host's part, with deep knowledge. He quoted Loti and Anatole France, as well as Shakespeare and Byron, with ease. Modern literature generally he did not praise, but criticised. Later I brought him to speak of Persian literature, and then saw he was a real enthusiast as he related me story after story from his beloved Sadi, or recited me verses from the true Persian poet Hafiz, whose songs even to-day are sung by ignorant peasants all over the land of the Lion and Sun. And so I passed my last night on Persian soil, but the sweetness of it will remain with me as long as I live. The mud habitation was forgotten, and for some delicious hours both the Oriental and the Occidental knew only the beauty of images created by the geniuses of centuries ago.

The route I traversed from Tabriz to Marand is a fairly good motor road, but from Marand to the Persian frontier by the route I have described I have no hesitation in saying that it would be quite impossible for a motor. It is purely and simply a caravan track. I understand there is a route via Maku to Kizil-Dize which is fairly good for motor traffic.

Armenia.

On Tuesday, November 4, I started for the Turkish frontier, Kizil-Dize, which I reached at 2 p.m. Here I went through the Customs, and passed the night in the usual miserable "Manzel." Wednesday, November 5, I commenced my journey through Armenia. I must here state that Armenia is now a misnomer. It should be called "Kurdistan." For better or worse, the Armenians are no more, and Kurds herd in the ruins of former Armenian houses. In my opinion, Turkey has made a great mistake, and has destroyed a source of wealth. Whatever may have been the faults of the Armenian, he was a worker, and a worker produces and is always a source of wealth to the country in which he lives. The Kurd is uncivilised and a robber. He recognises no authority, and speaks no language but his own, not even Turkish. I am afraid that later the Turk will find that he has made a poor exchange.

On the Persian frontier I had been warned that the first stage from the Turkish frontier was really dangerous on account of these Kurds, and that I should be wise to ask for protection from the chief of the Gendarmes at Kizil-Dize. At first I poohpoohed the idea, but my friends gave me instances of recent attacks, and said I should do well to follow their advice. So I asked for and obtained an armed guard for the first day's journey. This guard consisted of one Turkish soldier, who was relieved about every three hours from blockhouses *en route*. These Turkish soldiers were ill-clad, and their tunics hung in rags, but certainly each one had a very serviceable-looking rifle and a bandolier of cartridges. In case of emergency I am not sure that my guard would have been of any use, but in that desolate stretch it was some comfort to see him sitting on the driver's box. I reached Taslishah at 6.30 p.m. A more dirty, filthy, or horrible place I have never slept in. A square mud hut, with mud benches and no windows of any kind. In the middle of the ceiling was simply a hole to let out the vile-smelling smoke from a fire in a brazier supplied with fuel made from animal dung. There is no wood procurable in this district, and this is the only fuel used for scores of miles. Add to this that my room was shared with six dirty-looking Kurds, who employed their time in toying with and cleaning villainous-looking revolvers, so my night was not a pleasant one. Sleep was out of the question. I simply lay on my camp bed, smoked, and waited for daybreak to appear through the hole above me. At 6.30 a.m., Thursday, November 6, I left this filthy place behind, and I hope never to see it again. At 12 noon I reached Kara Killissa, and saw the first minaret on this route. I must here mention that from this place to the Turkish frontier a single-line railway runs, which was built by the Russians during the War, and which it was intended to take as far as Van. When, however, Russia collapsed, the whole district was evacuated, and the railway was never finished. Later on I saw the section built in connection with the same scheme which was to run from Kars, but which also was left unfinished some few miles east of Erzeroum. The Turks have done nothing, and are not even utilising the lines which are down. What particularly drew my attention to this place

A KURD IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

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was how well, in comparison with the Persian villages I had passed through, the people were clothed. The boys were just coming out of school, and almost invariably they were clad in good, strong corduroy, whereas in the Persian villages the children were always in rags and tatters. I arrived at Kurdaly at sunset, where I passed another miserable night in a similar hole to Taslishah. The last two days the going had been good, and we were travelling over a good road on a wide, level plain.

Friday, November 7, we commenced climbing hills and going along ravines. The hills were of volcanic rock, fantastic, but bare of any signs of life, and along the ravines quite romantic. I passed the night at Ismail Khane. Saturday, November 8, we were climbing up long hills and crossing rolling plains. Along these plains I noticed very fine herds of cattle, sheep, and horses, which I was given to understand were sent in very large quantities to Trebizond and shipped to Constantinople. At 6.30 p.m. we reached Khasan-Khala, which has evidently at one time been a well-fortified town, but is at present mostly in ruins. Here I passed the night in what the proprietor was pleased to call the "Hotel." At any rate, it was better than the dirty, filthy places I had passed the nights in during the last week. There were two sleeping rooms, with real bedsteads and even mattresses! They looked fairly inviting, but as my body was not too comfortable already, I decided not to add interest. I stretched out once more my camp-bed, and as I had the room to myself, for the first time since entering Turkey I undressed and slept well.

Erzeroum.

I left Khasan-Khala November 9, at 8 a.m., and soon struck the paved road leading direct into Erzeroum. It was during this stage that I saw the uncompleted railway from Kars already mentioned. It was an exceedingly bitter cold morning, and as we climbed up the ever-ascending hills till we reached 6,000 feet above sea-level, it blew a blizzard of snow, hail, and rain. My feet and hands were frozen, but I comforted myself with the reflection: Ah, well! now one is approaching civilisation, and I dreamed of hotels, restaurants, cafés chantants, and all the different things which might compensate a weary traveller. How bitterly I was to be disappointed! At 12 noon we arrived at Erzeroum. What a place!—rather, shall I say, what desolation! Old battered fortifications, buildings shattered and in ruins. It looked as though it had been shaken by an earthquake, such as had completely destroyed a village called Emricum through which I had passed the day before. But I was told that these buildings had been shattered in turn by Russian and Turkish guns. There must have been a terrible struggle around this town. Whatever it may have been prior to the Great War, to-day Erzeroum lies prone, shattered and ruined. Its streets are unpaved, unswept, and unclean. With its ruined bazaar, its battered buildings, its evil-smelling streets, Erzeroum is to-day a place of unqualified horror. Will this town, now depopulated through war, massacre, disease, and evacuation of its Armenian inhabitants, ever regain its former prosperity? It seems impossible, yet it is the junction of the highways leading from Trebizond, Transcaucasia, Persia, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, and Anatolia.

The road from the Turkish frontier at Kazil-Dize to Erzeroum is a fairly good one, and could be traversed easily by motor. I left Tabriz at 9 a.m., October 29, and arrived at Erzeroum on November 9, having taken practically twelve days for this part of the journey. However, I must say the small Persian horses did well, not even, so far as I am aware, casting a shoe. The driver was both polite and kind, and I almost felt sorry to part with him. However, I intended, if possible, to do the rest of the journey to Trebizond by motor, especially so as I was very anxious to avoid the snow which was threatening above. I had the good fortune to meet a Turkish officer who was stationed in Erzeroum, and who spoke French. He was a great help to me in many ways. He took me to a restaurant which, if not luxurious, was, at least, comfortable, and we had a fairly good dinner together. After this he helped me to procure a motor to take me to Trebizond next day. I must do the Turk justice. Whatever may be the policy of his Government, as a personality I have always found the Turk to be a "gentleman." In this case "an officer and a gentleman."

Trebizond.

I left Erzeroum by automobile on November 10 for Trebizond. The Russians during the War constructed a really splendid chaussée road between these two places. What a difference! Once again speed and comfort. Again the machine was a "Buick," an old one, certainly, with loose valves and slapping pistons, but it was a brave old machine, and we climbed the Kop mountain, at places covering gradients of 1 in 12, in good style. She made as much noise as a threshing machine, but she did a good fifteen mile average; not bad for an old machine on a mountainous road! In many places this paved road is badly broken up, but I was pleased to see that the Turkish authorities have men and machines at work mending and making good. What a pleasure once more to be rushing along and to be eating up distances! If anyone wants to know how to appreciate a modern motor-car, let him first do 400 miles over camel tracks in a horse-drawn vehicle. It was a pleasure even to smell the petrol and to listen to the bubble-bubble of the exhaust. We passed the slow-moving caravans with a whirl, and how thankful I felt to have done with animal transport. It is very romantic, but belongs to a bygone age. We reached Bibout at 6 p.m., where we found a fairly good hotel. For the first time here since leaving Tabriz I had a bath and slept in a good bed. What a luxury after twelve nights in a camp bed, often fully dressed! Only those who have had such experiences will understand why I speak of such things. Bibout is a pretty little town, beautifully situated on two sides of a river, and reminded me very much of an Italian town. The place is being rebuilt and remodelled, because, like all towns and villages on this route, it suffered terribly during the War. I intended to leave early next morning, November 11, as I wished to reach Trebizond before evening; I therefore arranged with the chauffeur to be ready to start by 6 a.m. Unfortunately, when I went to look for the motor the driver told me his machine was completely frozen up, and instead of starting at 6 a.m. we did not get away until 1 p.m.; in fact, the motor had only been induced to start by first being towed up a steep hill out of the town and then allowed to run down. However, once we got under way the machine ran all right, and after travelling along a most beautiful valley for many miles we climbed the last long mountain at two in the morning. It was a stiff climb round and round on the splendid Russian-made track. We mounted up above the trees right to the snow line, looking down ravines and precipices which made one shudder. Finally we were on the top, then one long descent until we glimpsed the Black Sea, and, like the Greek soldiers of old, I felt like shouting, "The sea! The sea!" We arrived in Trebizond at 3 a.m. Wednesday, November 12,

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and with what delight I saw an Austrian-Lloyd boat riding at anchor in the roadstead. That meant Civilisation once more.

I left Trebizond at 6 p.m. the same evening by the small Italian steamer "Bormida." There is not much more to tell. I arrived at Constantinople at 11 a.m., November 18. Constantinople is too well known to need any description from myself. I left this city at 9.30 p.m., November 19, by the Orient Express, and reached London November 23.

(Concluded.)

EARLY MOSLEM ARCHITECTURE.

On March 4, in the course of lectures that he is delivering at the London School of Oriental Studies, Mr. Ernest Richmond dealt with architecture in Egypt under the Fatimid dynasty. He said the ruined mosque in Cairo, founded by the Caliph Al Aziz in 991, and known by the name of his successor, Al Hakim, showed the earliest example in Moslem architecture of the use in decoration of the six-pointed star—the so-called Shield of David. This was almost the last of the great quadrangular, congregational mosques on the grand scale. Al Hakim's reign was a period of decline for the Fatimid dynasty, and he himself did much to weaken it. He propagated the Shiah doctrine to the utmost limits, and encouraged every sort of heterodoxy. For this purpose he founded in Cairo a Hall of Science, a sort of Grand Lodge. There were nine degrees of initiation for proselytes. The initiate was bound to absolute secrecy concerning the truths revealed to him. In the early stages nothing was said in contradiction to the broader tenets of Islam; but with the fifth degree the undermining of the initiate's religion began. He was taught that all religious observances were merely emblematic, nothing but devices to keep the common herd in subjection. This led to teaching that the real prophets were those that concerned themselves with practical matters, political institutions, and forms of government; till, in the ninth degree, it was taught that all religious teaching was allegorical, and that religious precepts need only be observed in so far as it was necessary to maintain order. The Caliph was proclaimed as the Incarnation of the Divine Reason. In the end he was assassinated.

Summarising the development which took place under Fatimid rule, the lecturer said that in its broad lines the traditional plan of the mosque was not changed; but the tomb in the form of a domed shrine began to be important, and formed for the first time part of the mosque plan. Among many devices characteristic of Moslem architecture which were introduced at this period were stilted domes and the minaret, whose successive storeys pass from square to octagon and from the octagon to the circular dome. The minaret was placed above the main entrance. Lastly there was the elaboration of the façade by means of a series of shallow niches with stone piers between them, a development that came with the introduction of stone workers from countries that lately had belonged to the Byzantine Empire. Under Saladin, who followed the Fatimids, Sunni ascendancy was restored, and schools were needed for teaching the orthodox doctrines of Islam. This caused the building of madrassas. In these there was taught the knowledge inherited from antiquity—such subjects as mathematics, astronomy, physics, medicine, grammar, and philosophy—also a knowledge of the Moslem religion. This included the Moslem code of laws and the traditional precepts by which a Moslem should conduct his life in all matters. There were four orthodox schools of tradition. All could be accommodated in the same building, but it was necessary to provide a separate hall for each.

THE MAMELUKE PERIOD OF MOSLEM ARCHITECTURE.

Mr. Ernest Richmond's course of lectures on early Moslem architecture, delivered at the London School of Oriental Studies, concluded with one on March 11 dealing with the Mameluke period, in which that style of architecture culminated.

Mr. Richmond said that Bibars, the founder of the Mameluke dynasty, who established a strong Government in Egypt in the latter half of the thirteenth century, built to the north of Cairo a great mosque on the ancient quadrangular plan, covering nearly an acre and a-half of ground. Some of the timber and marble used in its construction came from Christian buildings in Jaffa, which city Bibars had taken from the Crusaders three years earlier.

After Bibars, in 1284 and 1285, Kalaun erected a great group of buildings, consisting of a hospital, a madrassa, and his own mausoleum. Of these buildings the best preserved to-day was the mausoleum, and one found in it a collection of influences—Gothic, Moorish, and Seljukian or North Syrian. It was in the windows more particularly that the Gothic influence was seen. Kalaun's successors followed his example of erecting his tomb in his own lifetime, and making that tomb part of a group of buildings intended for religious, benevolent, and educational purposes. The tomb-mosque or tomb-madrassa of Sultan Hassan, begun in 1356, was by far the largest of these, and the expense was so great that Hassan is reported to have said that he would have abandoned the whole idea only he would not have it said that a Sultan of Egypt had been unable to complete a building that he had commenced. The Mameluke period culminated with Kait Bai. By his time the stream of craftsmen which during several preceding centuries had been flowing into Cairo ceased to flow. It was a period of assimilation and critical adaptation, when Moslem architecture became a definite compound with a character and style of its own, harmonised in all its parts and organised as a whole.

The opening up of the sea route to India and the fall of Cairo before the Turkish invader brought the period of Mameluke architecture to a close.

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ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—At the meeting of the Near and Middle East Association held on February 25, as reported in your issue of March 5, we find complete agreement among the speakers for toleration of each other's religious views. As a matter of fact, toleration towards Eastern Christians, as distinct from Greek and Roman Christians of the seventh century, is enjoined on Moslems in the Koran itself, the difference made being a question of race and politics. As is well known also, the Jews were included in that toleration. And in principle Christianity teaches not only toleration but love. Hence agreement, as stated above, was not difficult nor new, but it can have no results as long as the masses, especially in the East, remain in their present state of illiteracy and ignorance. There is no lack of Arabic literature of humanities, and no finer school than Sufism among Moslems, but there is a lamentable deficiency in historical knowledge and philosophy in all Eastern schools, Jewish, Christian, and Mohammedan, and a strong sectarianism instead.

Serious and prompt efforts to educate those masses, through University lectures and a reformed vernacular Press, and to see that children's school-books are suitable for a liberal education, should be the first concern of rulers, teachers, and economists. At present it is a case of the blind leading the blind in all Eastern countries!

I am, etc., A. Sefi.

Buckingham Gate, March 13, 1925.

[Mr. Sefi's contribution to that end, "Almanaratu-Tarykhyyat," which we announced in these pages a few months back, should be of the utmost value to the Arabic-speaking populations.]

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the India Society on March 11 the Earl of Ronaldshay was elected President, in succession to Sir Hercules Read, Lord Carmichael a Vice-President, and Sir Francis Younghusband Chairman of Council.

Sir Francis Younghusband, who presided, stated that the year under review had been a very active one for the Society. The Conference on Indian Art at Wembley had been very successful, and the proposals made by Sir George Lloyd had been widely discussed in the Indian Press. The lecturers before the Society had included the Earl of Ronaldshay, Sir Thomas Arnold, Miss D. J. Stephens, and Capt. Gladstone Solomon. The last of these had been asked to repeat his paper on "The Bombay Art Revival" before the Association Française des Amis de l'Orient.

The publication for the year, to be distributed free to members, is being specially written for the Society by Mr. Henry Cousens, and will deal with "The Architecture of Western India." In addition, the Society will publish a bi-annual bulletin containing reports of lectures, meetings, etc.

The Earl of Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, will be the guest at the annual banquet of the Primrose League at the Connaught Rooms on April 3.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

The King has given the following officials of the Sudan Government authority to wear decorations of the Order of the Nile, conferred on them by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered :—

Insignia of the Third Class.—Mr. John Edgar Williams, chief mechanical engineer, Public Works Department.

Insignia of the Fourth Class.—Mr. Norman Field, Inspector of Schools; Mr. Robert Vickers Bardsley, M.B.E., private secretary to the Governor-General; and Mr. William Donald Campbell Laidlaw Purves, District Commissioner, Darfur.

RECONSTRUCTED EGYPTIAN CABINET.

The Egyptian Cabinet has been reconstituted as follows :—

Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Ziwar Pasha; Interior, Sidky Pasha; Finance, Yehia Ibrahim Pasha; Justice, Abdul Aziz Fahmy Pasha; Public Works, Ismail Sirry Pasha; Communications, Yusef Cattaui Pasha; Education, Aly Maher Pasha; Pious Foundations, Mohamed Aly Pasha; Agriculture, Tewfik Doss Pasha; War, Mussa Fuad Pasha.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on Thursday, March 26, at 8.30 p.m., at 12, Rutland Gate, S.W.7, by kind permission of Mrs. Noel Buxton. The Rev. Harold Buxton and Dr. E. H. Griffin, D.S.O., M.C., will speak on "The Future of the Armenians." Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., will preside.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Iraq Oil Concession.

The interesting news is now forthcoming that an agreement has been signed by the Iraq Government with the representative of the Turkish Petroleum Company, Mr. E. H. Keeling, for the exploitation of petroleum in the Mosul and Baghdad vilayets for a period of seventy-five years. The importance of this development scarcely needs emphasis. There is every reason for thinking that the areas in question contain very important oil resources, which will now be made available to commerce. The company which will undertake this work is an international undertaking, and consists of a combination of the chief oil concerns in the world. The participants are the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Royal Dutch Shell, the Standard and six other American companies, and a number of French concerns. Thus, British, American, French, and Dutch interests are alike represented. It is understood that the company will sink wells in twenty-four areas, each of them of eight square miles, and that it is prepared to drill 15,000 ft. per annum. In the event of oil being found in paying quantities, a pipeline will be constructed to the Mediterranean, possibly to Alexandretta instead of to Haifa as a concession to French interests.

Past Negotiations.

The agreement marks the termination of negotiations which in one form or another date back to long before the War. As far back as 1871 an expert visited the site and made an unenthusiastic report. A second report some years later was not more favourable, but in 1901 a third expert gave a favourable verdict, which led Germany to interest herself in that region. Then followed strenuous competition for the concession between British and German interests, and finally, in 1914, under the agreement made by the Turkish Petroleum Company, the area was to be divided between the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, whose share was to be 50 per cent., the Royal Dutch Shell (25 per cent.), and the Deutsche Bank (25 per cent.). Then came the War, and when it was over it was proposed that Germany's share should be taken by the French, but the Americans strongly objected to this plan, advancing the demand for an "open door" in a mandated territory, and finally a settlement was reached by giving American interests half the share originally held by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

The Oilfields.

It is one thing to take a concession, and another to find oil in adequate quantities, but, as I have said, the indications are that rich areas exist in the regions covered by the concession, though only drilling can prove beyond question whether it is so or not. The fields in the vilayets of Mosul and Baghdad have been described in detail in these columns in previous years, but it may be of interest if I give a few details of these areas. The fields stretch, roughly, from the Tigris to the Persian frontier, and it is believed that the oil districts cover a region of some 400 kilometres square. The principal places where oil is found include Abjak, Baba Gurgur, Gayara, Guil, Nimrud, Kifri, Tuz Khumatli, Zahrou, Hit and Ramadieh, Mendali, and Naphata. One of the most important of these is said to be the Gayara field, on the Tigris. According to a report it is of considerable extent, and has been classed with Mendali as being the best in Mesopotamia. The oil springs at Mendali are some distance north-west of the town. Finally, another potentially rich field is said to be that of Tuz Khumatli.

Eastern Bank.

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Eastern Bank for the past year. The net profit amounted to £122,052, as compared with £121,847 for 1923, and £35,348 was brought forward, making the available surplus £165,400. A final dividend of 5s. per share is proposed, making 9 per cent. for the year, as before, and the allocations are £20,000 to the reserve, making it £360,000, and £10,000 to premises account, leaving £35,400 to be carried forward.

Egypt's Trade.

The statistics of Egypt's commerce for January show a slight expansion in the total trade as compared with the corresponding month a year ago, due to a sharp rise in imports, which more than counterbalances a decline in exports. The value of the imports was £E4,733,636, as compared with £E3,926,038, a rise of £E807,598, while that of the exports was £E7,876,796, as against £E8,388,325, a decline of £E511,529, due to smaller cotton exports. It will be seen that there is a very substantial balance of trade in Egypt's favour.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE MINERALS OF THE CAUCASUS AND ARMENIA.

Vast Undeveloped Resources.

(From a Correspondent.)

One of the most important regions in Russia from the point of view of mineral resources is the Caucasus and Russian Armenia. The Russians have never been the people to utilise fully what Nature has given them in such abundance, and at the present time what progress was made under the Tsarist regime is being lost. Foreign enterprise and capital, though always unwelcome to the Russians, have done much to develop the mining industry, but the Revolution upset everything, and as long as present conditions continue it is useless to expect any improvement. Ultimately, however, foreign enterprise will again be required, and in view of that eventuality—which may not be so far away as is thought—it may be of interest to sketch briefly some of the mineral resources of the regions mentioned above.

Although enormous quantities of oil have already been extracted from the oilfields of Baku, Grozny, and Maikop, only a slight exhaustion of the fields has been remarked. Moreover, there are in the neighbourhood of Baku many promising regions which have not yet been prospected and worked, like the oilfields at the Shirvan and Salyan steppes; near Shemakha and further west at Keramal-Naphtalan; the Shiraki and Eldar steppes; the hills of Kakhetia and in the north of the Caucasus, at the Taman peninsula and to the south-east of it as far as Maikop; at the hills along the Terek and Sounja rivers; the environs of Grozny; the Black Mountains; the environs of Temir-Khau-Shurah, then along the western coast of the Caspian Sea and many other places all around the Caucasus mountains. If not all of the places where surface-oil is found can be expected to be as rich as the oilfields already worked, many of them might prove to be paying concerns.

There is hardly another mine in the world where manganese occurs in such large quantities and of such excellent purity as in the district of Tehiatury, in Imeretia, and as the mineral beds are deposited near the surface of the soil, the ores are easily worked, and the export by railway to the port of Batum is very convenient. The mineral beds stretch, with some interruptions, for nearly forty miles in length and about six to ten miles in breadth; at the same time the beds are 5 to 6 ft. thick, containing 52 to 56 per cent. of pure manganese and only 0.05 per cent., seldom up to 0.15 per cent. of phosphorus, which is a great advantage, as such minerals generally contain phosphorus up to 2 and 3 per cent. Between 1880 and 1915 1,735,000 tons of manganese ore were extracted and exported. Other manganese mines are found in the districts of Vladikavkas, Grozny, Ozurgety, Senaki, Kutair, Sharopan, Elisabethpol, Baku, and several places in Armenia, but none of these mines is so rich as the Tehiatury one.

The Caucasian coals are all of Jurassic age, but on the average the quality is satisfactory, though they do not give so much coke as metallurgical coal. The thickness of some of the beds is considerable, and the coal mines are easily worked, as the beds are mostly situated higher than the soil of the valleys.

One of the best coal mines is that of Tkvibuli, situated about twenty-six miles to the north-east of the town of Kutais, and connected with it by a railway. The total thickness of the coal beds here is 73 ft., with intercalary beds of clay. Several beds of pure coal at this series are 10 to 13 ft. thick. The coal yields up to 60 per cent. of coke, but it is rather friable. In 1915, 73,600 tons were extracted from this mine.

Another coal mine of importance is that of Tvargeli, in the district of Sukhum. Here there are severals beds of coal 10 to 25 ft. thick, and the coal is of very good quality, yielding up to 69 per cent. of coke.

In addition to these two coal mines, there are twenty-two more or less promising ones in the Government of Kutais; twelve in the Kuban region, of which those in the district of Naltchik are the most important; and fourteen in the Terek region.

In Armenia coals, especially lignite, are known at Migri, Bolshiya-Keitu, near Alexandropol, Begil, between Akra and the Zab river, near Herbol and Sigerik, Mervanan, Pahbe, Tchermuk, Van, and other places, but none of these deposits are worked.

There are many copper mines distributed all over the country. Only a few have been worked, owing to the difficulty of procuring the necessary fuel. The principal mine, which has been worked for many years, is that at Kedabek, in the Elisabethpol Government; the production of this mine has approximated to 1,000 to 1,400 tons of copper per annum.

Another important copper mine is the Allahverdi one, which has produced yearly up to 1,200 tons of copper. Not far from it are situated the mines of Akhtala and Shamluk. Other mines, some of which have been worked, are those of Shahgali-Heliar, Sisimadani, Delijan, Miskhan, and in the district of Karabagh—Agarak, Kavart, Sionniusk, etc. In the mountains south of Batum several mines have been worked, notably at Argana-Madan, Zanzul, Ergha, etc. There are numerous copper occurrencies in the Caucasian mountains, but they have never been even prospected.

Though there are numerous iron mines in the country, only a few have been worked from time to time, owing principally to the scarcity of good roads. In the Taman peninsula there are three occurrencies of iron ore; in the district of Ekatevinodar, three; the Terek region about Naltchik, two; Vladikavkas, twelve; Grozny, six; in the Government of Kutais, twelve; Tiflis, fourteen; Elisabethpol, thirty-three, of which that of Dash-

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keran is the most important, the ore being calculated to amount to fourteen million tons, with about 60 per cent. of metallic iron. Other mines are known at Damyrtash, Damblut, Tchatakh, Sisimadani, Tchinarlidj, etc.

Silver ores are known only at a few places, and exist in too small quantities for exploitation, but lead mines are numerous, and the ore contains nearly always a more or less high percentage of silver, and in places some gold.

One of the principal lead mines is the Sadon one to the west of Vladikavkas; it was worked for some years, and the ore fused at the lead works of Alagir. Other mines in the neighbourhood are Holst, in the district of Naltchik, and in many other places in the mountains. In Armenia the lead and silver mine of Gumushkhana was once famous, and the silver extracted from the lead contained 4 per cent. of gold.

In ancient times "Colchis"—*i.e.*, the present Mingrelia, Svanetia, and Ratcha—was famous for its gold placers; but at present nowhere in the Caucasus or Armenia is gold extracted, though its presence is known in many places, and nearly all the rivers and streams which flow from the mountains contain alluvial gold, and at the tributary streams of the lower Tcharokh river near Artvin the gold is accompanied by palladium, rhodium, osmium, and iridium, and at the district of Sasun the placers contain some platinum.

No serious exploration or prospecting has taken place, though I am certain that there are places where it would be worth while to spend some money on geological investigation.

Two very promising zinnabar mines are known in Daghestan, one near the village of Khapik, the other near Gepze. It is said that the natives know some other even richer occurrencies in the neighbourhood of these mines. In the districts of Naltchik and Maikop zinnabar has also been found, but the exact place is unknown.

Cobalt and nickel are known at five different places in the Elisabethpol district, the principal mine being situated at Dashkesan, where the ore contains 17 per cent. of cobalt, 0.25 per cent. of nickel, and 32 per cent. of arsenic. Nickel is also found in the district of Temir-Khau-Shora, near the Sulak river, and in the mountains about Maikop.

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of February was 22,700 tons.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company and allied companies for February, 28,275 tons (including the gross production of participation well No. 5 Runcu); throughput of refineries, 20,355 tons. Two months' production (1925), 51,523 tons; last year (January and February), 13,753 tons.

INDIAN COAST LIGHTS.

For some time past the Imperial Merchant Service Guild has been in communication with the appropriate Government Department in regard to the improvement of lights round the Indian coast.

Their representations on this subject (says a Liverpool contemporary) have received very careful attention, and, as the Guild contended, it has been decided that certain improvements are necessary.

In this way there will be a very great advantage to all navigators who are bound to sea from Indian ports, and the good work of the Guild in this respect has been very much appreciated.

It has rightly been taken to indicate that the Guild is interested in all seafarers, and any improvements which can make their tasks easier and safer is looked upon as one of the duties and a phase of the work in which the Guild is very interested.

This should be a clear indication that those serving far away have their interests just as closely watched as those at home, and no doubt members serving on ships on the Indian coast will appreciate the point. It has already had good effect in subscriptions received by the Guild.

PALESTINE CROP PROSPECTS.

The February report of the Director of Agriculture in Palestine states:—

Sowing of wheat and barley has been completed in all districts. "Afir" crops are very forward, and later sown areas look well generally. In the coastal region a comparatively large proportion of the crops on heavier land have been damaged by floods. Winter cereals in the south are recovering under the influence of recent showers and brighter weather. Leguminous crops have suffered a slight set-back from cold. Frost of unusual severity has caused considerable damage to tomato beds and banana plantations, and several farmers have incurred heavy financial losses. Almond and citrus trees have also been affected. Sowing of Turkish tobacco seed continues; baladi varieties are being transplanted.

Sir Herbert Dering, the British Minister to Roumania, presided at the banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce in Bucharest on March 7.

The Greek Government has signed an agreement with the Lake Copais Company for the settlement of differences by arbitration. M. Georgiades, Vice-President of the Areopagus, will represent Greece, and Sir Robert Graves, a former British Consul-General, the Copais Company.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Quieter and Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended March 5, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been quieter but firm for Sakel and rather strong for Uppers; the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $0.20 up for March, $1 up for May, $1.35 up for July, $1.40 up for November, $1.35 up for January, 1926. Ashmouni : $1.45 up for April, $1.32 up for June, $0.55 up for October. There is not much change to report in the Sakel position; the turnover of business has been smaller, but the undertone has remained distinctly firm. The demand from abroad has not increased, but this bear factor has been fully neutralised by the smallness of the local supplies and the fact that these are very strongly held, especially the tenderable qualities. At the first March tender 250 krs. dockets were issued. We do not think the open positions in March are large; speculators have transferred their commitments into more distant months. The Ashmouni market has shown exceptional strength, the reasons being the rise in New York and the marked expansion of the demand from abroad. Fairly large orders have been received, especially from the Continent, and hedges have been bought back against sales on the spot market in fulfilment of this new business. Egyptians in Liverpool have kept rather firm, and at times prices were at a premium over Alexandria. Much activity has prevailed on the new crop options, and it transpires that spinners have effected some purchases. The total quantity of cotton received from up-country since September 1 is now over 6,600,000 krs., a figure which exceeds by about 225,000 krs. the total for the year as given by the Government. We maintain our estimate of between 7 to 7¼ million kantars. The week's receipts amount to 75,729 krs., against exports 198,411 krs.; the stock stands at 1,491,349 krs.

Spot.—We have had a quiet week at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 14,200 bales, of which we estimate 3,900 bales Sakel, 8,000 bales Uppers, 1,700 bales Zagora, 250 bales Pilion, 200 bales Brown, and 150 bales White.

Sakellarides.—The inquiry is still on a small scale, and has been mainly for the medium and lower qualities, though a little more interest has been shown in the good styles this week. Spot differences are generally very steady, with a tendency to harden.

Ashmouni and Zagora continue in good demand for all qualities, and have absorbed the major portion of this week's total business. High grades continue in great request at good prices. Spot differences are without much change for medium qualities and a little easier for the lower grades, but for Good and above they are dearer.

Pilion has been in moderate request at about last week's spot differences.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot differences are unchanged.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot differences are generally a little dearer.

Crop 1925.—The news is satisfactory. Sowing in the South Delta is almost completed, in the Central Delta is well advanced, and as regards the Northern Delta it will commence shortly. There is some apprehension about the summer water supply, but the present readings of the Nile gauges do not justify it at least for the moment.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for February reads :—"Preparation of the land is earlier than last year. Comparatively large areas have already been sown. All reports indicate a tendency to increase the area under Sakellarides in Lower Egypt at the expense of other varieties."

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Dull Tone Generally.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended March 14 states :—

Business has been even quieter during the past week than recently. There has been a slight fall in the price of American cotton, but no effect has been produced on this market thereby. The figures of exports for last month quoted below appear good, but they represent in the main, of course, business booked during the later months of last year.

Yarn.—Spinners of American cotton have experienced a poor week, and in most cases sales have not been equal to production. Buyers appear to be acting with the utmost caution, and quotations are naturally inclined to droop. For Egyptian spinnings, on the other hand, there has been, perhaps, a slight improvement in demand. Shipments of yarn last month were 15,997,900 lbs., against 15,904,900 lbs. in January and 14,121,900 lbs. in February, 1924.

Cloth.—Buyers have held off to a surprising extent, and from no source has either inquiry or actual business been of adequate weight. Shipments of cloth last month amounted to 422,264,000 sq. yds., as compared with 402,808,400 sq. yds. in January and 397,070,200 sq. yds. in February of last year. Exports last month were the largest for over two and a-half years.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, the price of American has fallen a little. "Spot" business in Liverpool has not been so active as during the past few weeks. Egyptian was again a strong market during the early part of the week, and at one time reached 37.25d.; there has since been a reaction, but prices are nevertheless nearly ¾d. up on balance. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 14,04; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 36.70.

Czecho-Slovakia's imports of artificial fertilisers attained a quantity of about 96,800 tons in 1924. This total included 61,708 tons of Chile saltpetre as against imports of 51,219 tons in 1923 and 24,354 tons in 1922. Agricultural circles in Czecho-Slovakia are devoting increased attention to the advantages resulting from these fertilisers.

Czecho-Slovakia's exports of hops attained a record figure last year both as regards weight and value. The quantity exported was 175,238 cwts. (compared with 61,926 cwts. in 1923) and the value was Kc.472,731,000, compared with Kc.146,411,473 in 1923. About half of the exports, to the value of 235 million crowns, went to Germany.

It is estimated that the area under beetroot cultivation this year in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, will be about 584,900 acres, a reduction of approximately 19 per cent. on last year's area. The reduction is due to the fact that last year a considerable amount of land usually devoted to grain was applied to beet production; this year such land will be restored to its former crops. The sugar beet yield for 1925-26 is estimated at about 6,700,000 tons, compared with 8,296,338 tons last season.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Good Demand for Dried Fruits.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Oilcakes.—A steady tone has prevailed. Linseed cake is unchanged at 260s., coconut cake is unaltered at 220s., while cottonseed cake is the same at 157s. 6d.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at unchanged prices. Tate's cubes are 38s. 6d., London granulated is 33s. 6d., while Lyle's granulated is 33s. 9d. Foreign descriptions have been firm. White Java May-June is quoted at 18s. 9d., while Czech granulated has been done at 32s. 3d. Futures have been steadier, May being 18s. 9d., August 18s. 10½d., September 18s. 10½d., and December 18s. 9¾d.

Coffee.—The market has been firm. Costa Rica is 4s. up at 174s. East Indian is 6s. up at 170s. Kenya is 4s. down at 142s., while Santos is 2s. lower at 124s.

Rice.—The market has been quiet. Burma afloat is quoted at 15s. 6d.

Maize.—An easier tendency has prevailed. La Plata afloat is quoted at 39s. 6d., while 41s. is asked for April-May, and 39s. for May-June.

Barley.—The market has ruled rather quiet.

Oilseed.—Linseed has been quiet, Calcutta being 23s. 7½d., while La Plata has been done at 21s. 7½d. Rapeseed has been quiet, Toria being 21s. Cottonseed has been dull. Bombay is 9s. 9d., Egyptian black is 12s. 6d., while Sakellaridis is 12s.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been steady, and is 48s. 9d. spot and 47s. 4½d. for April. Rape oil has been steady, with crude at 49s. and technical refined at 52s. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined common edible is 47s., Egyptian crude is 41s., while deodorised is 49s.

Currants.—The market has been very firm, and quite a good trade has been done. Vostizzas have been the medium of the bulk of the business, while Panariti and Gulf have also been in good request, also cleaned Amalias and Patras. At this period of the year there is usually a good demand for this fruit, and it would appear now to be developing.

Sultanas.—There has been a very brisk market during the past week. Cretans have been in specially good request, while Greeks have also been the medium of considerable business. Supplies of sultanas are none too plentiful.

Figs.—The market has shown distinct signs of expanding in the last few days, and a very good business has gone through. Supplies of genuine are now small. The indications point to an increase of prices.

Plums.—The market is very firm, the demand being on the increase. Stocks of some varieties are very small.

Dates.—There is nothing of special interest to report as regards this commodity. Business has been on a rather limited scale, and prices are about the same.

Almonds.—The market has displayed a very firm tone, and generally prices are tending to harden.

Oranges.—Good supplies are available, and the demand is well maintained, so that the market remains very firm. Jaffas have continued in good request.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ.

The *Agricultural Bulletin* of Iraq for the month ended February 15 states:—

The extraordinary sequence of frosts is a most unusual feature in this country. During January the minimum temperature fell below freezing point on twenty nights, and the month closed in a sequence of severe frosts without parallel in the meteorological records. Minimum temperatures of 18.8 degrees F., 18.9 degrees F., 19.4 degrees F., 20.3 degrees F., 21.5 degrees F., and 21.4 degrees F. were successively registered from the 26th to the 31st. Strong dry winds from the north-west were associated with these low temperatures.

Such severe conditions of cold combined with lack of rainfall have led to almost famine conditions throughout the country. Fodder for animals has been practically unobtainable since desert grazing failed due to lack of seasonable rains, and early sown winter cereals did not make sufficient growth to enable them to be grazed as is customary. Snow in Northern Iraq and lack of rain over the lower regions of the country have seriously interfered with late cereal sowings. These conditions are reflected in the prices of grain and all foodstuffs.

Wheat rose to Rs. 300 per ton and barley to Rs. 150 per ton in Baghdad, and in some districts prices are even higher. The great shortage of "tibn" or crashed straw has led cultivators to adopt such methods as digging for grass roots in order to keep their stock alive. In the northern areas the conditions are pitiable, and the loss to livestock is estimated in some districts as high as 70 per cent. The general rain which fell on February 13 will ameliorate these conditions to some extent, particularly if it be followed by a spell of warmer weather.

In the Diyalah district the frost has practically ruined the harvest of citreous fruits. Practically all fruit now on sale is unsound from the effects of frost, and there will be a dearth of citreous fruits later, as practically none is available in fit condition for storage. The trees themselves have been damaged to some extent, but will recover.

Some anxiety is felt by large garden holders about date trees, which certainly show signs of having been affected by the severe frosts. The probable effect of this on next season's crop cannot be gauged at present.

The early sowings of winter cereals have withstood the frost. In some cases the earlier sown barley has been cut back, but the growth will recur from the root when conditions are favourable. Sowings made as long ago as mid-December have in many cases not as yet germinated. No opinion on these can be as yet expressed. Immediately after the rain on the 13th cultivators recommenced their sowings, but progress is handicapped by the weak condition of the livestock.

Owing to weather conditions, little progress could be made with anti-locust work in the Mosul Vilayet. Ploughing of breeding grounds and collection of eggs were alike impeded by the poor condition of both man and beast. A Locust Committee was formed in the Diyalah Liwah during the period under report, and preliminary measures were taken for dealing with the pest in the Samarrah area. Examination of eggs sent in from all breeding grounds shows that these have been unaffected by the weather conditions. All eggs received were in viable conditions, and it appears that it is late

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summer rains rather than winter frosts which are the chief natural factor of control.

During the period under report a certain amount of cotton was picked. 3,496,271 lbs. of seed cotton, approximately equivalent to 2,200 bales, had been delivered at the ginnery up to the end of January.

All the larger cotton growers are now busy with ploughing for next season's crop. The smaller cultivator is still too busy with his delayed cereal sowings.

From the experimental scutching now in progress at the department's flax mill it was found that dry flax straw lost 21.3 per cent. by weight on retting, and gave 10 per cent. of its weight flax and 14 per cent. tow. The quality of flax and tow produced is good, but due to the uneconomic nature of the plant used, the cost is high.

Sowings for this season's flax crop have suffered badly from frost, especially those sown in early December which were caught by the cold spell immediately on germinating.

Winter green manure crops at the Experimental Farm have made little growth owing to weather conditions. The investigation of the spotted bollworm continues. Some living caterpillars, pupal, and even moths were found before the intense frosts of the latter end of January. All the moths were, however, killed by the cold, and caterpillars that had not had time to form pupal were also killed. The pupal, however, resisted even these conditions.

There is a continued demand for silk-worm eggs and seeds and seedlings of mulberries from districts. It would appear that cultivators are wakening to the possibilities of this as a spare time industry.

The July, 1924-January, 1925, exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,041 tons, and of barley 27,784 tons, total 28,825 tons, as compared with 133,528 tons exported during the same period last year. The August, 1924-January, 1925, exports of dates from Iraq were 138,971 tons, valued at Rs. 18,053,371, as compared with 108,926 tons, valued at Rs. 13,825,639 for the corresponding season last year. The July, 1924-January, 1925, exports of wool from Iraq were 14,620 tons, as compared with 3,890 tons exported during the same season last year.

NEW COMPANY.

Anglo-Persian Oil (Australia).

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Australia), Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £100,000, in £1 shares, to provide oil, coal, and other fuel installations in the Commonwealth of Australia and elsewhere, etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—J. Clark and J. W. Reoch, Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2, secretaries to public companies, who are to appoint the first directors. The Treasury has at all times the right to be represented on the board by two ex-officio directors. An ex-officio director has the right of negativing any resolution of the board, but the directors will have the right to appeal to the Government. For the purpose of this provision, H.M. Government means the Treasury and the Admiralty acting jointly. The registered office is at Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, E.C.

POSITION WANTED.

EXPERIENCED Secretary, Accountant, 27, fluent French, German, some Greek and Turkish, seeks position with firm in Near East.—Box 12, THE NEAR EAST, 167, Strand, W.C.2.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Stores.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of goods required by the Central Police Stores for the year 1925-1926. The range of articles required is wide, covering accoutrements, harness and saddlery, fire-engine accessories, barrack-room, etc., furniture, tools, permanent and consumable stores (including brooms, flannelette, oils and paints, sacking, cotton thread). April 21. (D.O.T.)

Telephone Exchange.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a manual full common battery telephone equipment in Cairo and of subscribers' telephones and other apparatus to work therewith. The exchange to be equipped for 6,000 subscribers' lines and to have an ultimate capacity of 8,000 lines; 3,900 table and 700 wall telephones will be required, together with a certain quantity of three-position switches and private branch exchanges. April 30.

Chemical Manures.—The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture invites tenders for the supply of the following chemical manures:—Nitrate of soda, 21,000 metric tons; nitrate of lime, 2,000 metric tons; sulphate of ammonia, 1,000 metric tons; superphosphate of lime, 3,000 metric tons. Six hundred bales of E bags for bagging the nitrate of soda are also required. May 2. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Egyptian Postal Administration invites tenders for the supply of clothing and general stores for the year 1925-26. The general stores cover a wide range, although frequently in quite small quantities. May 12. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Locomotives.—H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. Charles Goodwin) reports that a firm has approached him asking to be furnished with quotations for a locomotive. The type of locomotive required is about 70 h.p. (D.O.T.)

Turbo-Generator.—The Municipal Electric Works of Timisoara (Transylvania) invites tenders for the supply of a turbo-generator, Scott transformers, a high-tension feeder, and various accessories. March 26 (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Telephone Exchange.—The Greek Government invite tenders for the supply of a manual telephone exchange for the City of Athens. April 15. (D.O.T.)

Threshing Machines, etc.—H.M. Consul-General at Salonika (Mr. F. E. Crow, C.M.G.) reports that he has been approached by an official of the Greek Refugee Colonisation Department with regard to obtaining quotations from British manufacturers for threshing machines, straw cutters, pressers, reaping machines, reapers and binders. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Passenger Coaches and Goods Trucks.—The Direction Generale des Chemins de Fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of six passenger coaches and six goods trucks. April 1. (D.O.T.)

Reconstruction of Bridges.—The Direction Générale des Chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the reconstruction of ten iron bridges on the Haidar Pacha-Eski Chehir section of the Anatolian Railway. April 2. (D.O.T.)

Metallic Storage Sheds.—The Anatolian Railway Administration invites tenders for the supply and erection of six metallic storage sheds. April 15. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	319-323
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	295-300
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.79½-24.84
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$-1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.55-94.75
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	980-990
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	343-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$-1s. 5$\frac{31}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	920-935
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.78⅜-4.79⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	92.70-93.30
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	160¾-161¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	117-117.62½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653-658
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.85-34.00
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.85-25.05

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Shipping Intelligence.

YUGOSLAVIA'S TRADE ROUTE PROBLEM

In an article on "The Ports of Salonika and Fiume" in the current issue of the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade M. A. Panitch points out that the economic development and consolidation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is seriously hindered by the absence on the Adriatic and Ægean Seas of a great port directly connected with the normal gauge railway system. He continues:—

Salonika is the historic port through which all the trade of Macedonia was carried on. But, although it had a world-wide reputation, and both by its natural formation and geographical position was suited for large sea traffic, the Turkish domination lasting over several centuries prevented its proper development, and the port now does not possess all the modern equipment which other ports have. This lack hinders to-day the increase of traffic in the port, just as it did before the war in Turkish times. The port of Salonika had the greatest business at the time of the Customs war between Serbia and Austria-Hungary in 1905 and 1906, when Serbia directed all her exports and imports via that port.

If Salonika even now has not any great importance as a seaport, nor traffic proportionate to its importance, it is because its whole hinterland is within the territory of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, whose frontier is only 70 kms. distant. The extensive basin of the Vardar, together with Southern Serbia as far as Nish, gravitate towards Salonika, and it would be possible also to direct that way a large part of the traffic to and from Belgrade, if we enjoyed in this foreign port the facilities which we should have if it belonged to us. With a good harvest and other favourable trade conditions it would be possible to export hundreds of thousands of tons of cereals from Banat and our other granaries via Salonika, a distance of 696 kms. from Belgrade, or only 10 kms. more than the distance from Belgrade to Fiume, the other great foreign port.

After the victory of the Balkan War in 1913, Greece promised to give Serbia a free zone in the port of Salonika. This concession was to have been in some measure compensation for the participation of the Serbian Army in the taking of Salonika by the Greeks. . . . After the Great War, the relations between ourselves and Greece were modified. After the war the new Governments of Greece have not considered as binding the 1913 Convention for a free Serbian zone in the port of Salonika. It took several years of new negotiations before a second convention was concluded on May 4, 1923, with four appendices on the Customs, railway, and veterinary services.

But, although the convention was ratified last year, and the area of the ceded zone, which covers 94,000 square miles, delineated on September 29, 1923, it is not yet put into operation, so that we have not yet begun to profit by the zone for our commerce. Greece has not kept her obligations under Clauses III. and VI. of the convention dealing with the preliminary regulation of the question of the rights of the dock company over the land and buildings erected within our free zone, for the port of Salonika, including the part ceded to us, was given for exploitation to this company. There are also other reasons which hindered our proceeding to the equipment and organisation of our free zone in the port. A few only need be mentioned here:—The high tariffs for the transport of goods over the short section of line between our frontier and Salonika, the exploitation of which is still under Greek administration; the long delays and inefficient service of goods transport on this part of the line, and the constant lack of rolling stock on the Greek railways.

After prolonged negotiations and the surmounting of many difficulties, the question of Fiume was at length settled a year ago. By the Agreement of Rome of January 27, 1924, between our kingdom and Italy, we obtained the port of Barosh. This port, however, is inadequate for the traffic which must use it. Warehouses are lacking, and colonial goods and manufactured articles cannot be stored. The port only allows the export of wood for building purposes, and in general, goods which are brought down to the platforms, such as timber, can only be stored in the open air. But even for such wood and the other goods which we have mentioned the present equipment is insufficient at Barosh, and at one and the same time only a few ships with a total tonnage of 35,000 can be docked. The erection of new installations, a railway junction with the neighbouring Martinshitsa and even Bakar, together with the enlargement of the station at Soushak, would make the port capable of dealing with the traffic using it.

At the time of the settlement of the Fiume question Italy did not ignore the position of the port Soushak. In the same way she knew that Fiume could not get business and live under Italian sovereignty if she had no connection with her hinterland. Consequently, to save Fiume, Italy ceded us by the Agreement of Rome the dock of Thaon di Revel at a rent of a gold lira a year. At the same time she consented that the station of Fiume as an international station should be for common use, and that our trains from the Zagreb-Fiume line might use it with their own engines and staff.

After the agreement all railway communications with Fiume were restored, but have remained very small during the succeeding twelve months. Passenger traffic has been small, while goods traffic is far below the pre-war level. The Thaon di Revel dock is large enough and possesses sufficient equipment for large traffic. In the five warehouses for long storage there is room for four thousand truck loads of goods. The Fiume station is also well supplied for dealing with a large traffic. In spite of this, for the last year we have not been able to use the dock, because, notwithstanding her obligation, Italy has delayed the repair of the warehouses and installations, which were to be

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SPECIAL NOTICE.
NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres, and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

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delivered over in good condition, and, further, because with the cession of the dock and the common use of the station of Fiume, Italy reserved herself all rights and made such regulations as have made it almost impossible for us to organise our traffic by this route for any long period. Thus, for example, Italy has laid down the conditions of the exclusive use in the dock of Thaon di Revel of Italian dockers.

NEW LLOYD TRIESTINO VENICE OFFICES.

The Palazzo Molin, situated at the new harbour station in Venice, has been acquired by the Lloyd Triestino Line for use as their offices and landing-stage in that town. Built in 1300 on the Giudecca Canal for Giovanni Molin, a rich merchant and owner of ships, the palace is remarkable for the graceful beauty and majestic lines for which the architecture of that period was famous. It has a great marble door in the centre and two smaller ones at the sides, all of exquisite work, over which towers the massive yet graceful construction, with its windows opening through slender marble shafts and richly ornamented capitals supporting the delicate work of the arches. The whole central group of windows is set in marvellous carvings, giving the marble the appearance of fine lacework. To-day, instead of the ancient red and white mill (the coat-of-arms of the Molin family), the palace bears the colours of the Lloyd Triestino Steamship Company, and its interior has been carefully adapted to cope conveniently with its large passenger traffic to and from all parts of the Eastern Mediterranean, Bombay, and the Far East.

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. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, March 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 28); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canterbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 28); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, March 20); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, March 24).

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended March 11, state:—

Egyptian Futures.—This market has been under the influence of strong "bullish" manipulation throughout the week, and, apart from a short-lived reactionary movement yesterday, caused by a succession of profit-taking orders, prices have been continually on the up grade. Earlier in the week some heavy selling, probably against Sudan imports, was well taken by short covering and speculative buying, the latter being encouraged by the strong statistical spot situation and a healthy trade demand. Whilst we are now at the highest level for the season, it is impossible to foresee a halting point; the contract still remains well below spot values, and whilst sooner or later the heavy discounts into the new crops are bound to come into operation, the full force of this factor may not be felt till the earlier summer months. It is significant to note that, although the current position stands at 170 points over May, only two dockets have been tendered to date.

Trade reports show a fairly satisfactory business, but the demand appears to be generally confined to the coarser Egyptian qualities. Both spinners and manufacturers are further substituting other cottons for Sakel, a point that is bound to have its due effect at some period. In the meantime, supplies of tenderable cotton of this quality are so limited that as a market factor this move has little effect. The probability is for heavy fluctuations in the immediate future, and whilst we consider that prices will work to a still higher range, the position is such that extreme caution is essential, and commitments when entered into should only be for the minimum quantity.

The new crop options are coming into greater prominence, and as a speculative medium probably offer more inducement, certainly less risk of excessive fluctuations, than the old contract. Since we last wrote favourably of these, a fair advance has taken place; however, further appreciation is probable, and moderate purchases might be recommended.

Egyptian Spot.—Considerable activity has been witnessed in this department throughout the week, and the turnover indicated by the official estimate shows the very satisfactory total of 7,700 bales. The main feature of the inquiry has been the persistent demand for the Upper and Zagora varieties, and sales of these qualities constitute the major portion of the business transacted. Although the basis has hardened materially during the past few weeks, we still remain "bullish" in the Upper position, mainly basing our ideas on the comparative scarcity and dearness of American staple cotton, also the very scanty offerings now available of outside competitive growths. Throughout the week Sakels have been in moderate request, and the St. Good Fair to Good grades have eased somewhat in basis; the higher grades, however, have held their ground fairly well. Although interest continues to be shown in the low and inferior qualities, business of weight is slow in developing. Pilion, Brown, and White have only occasionally been asked for, and the business in these qualities has been quite unimportant. A few lots of White Sudan have been sold at prices varying from 20.00d. to 23.50d. Upper and Brown quotations are advanced 105 points for all grades, except Good, which is exceptionally raised 130 points. In Sakel, all grades are advanced 165 points. The estimated sales total 7,700 bales, against 2,400 last week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 37.25d.

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COMPANY MEETING.

TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY.

Mr. C. E. Heath's Speech.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Trade Indemnity Company, Ltd., was held on March 12 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C. Mr. C. E. Heath, O.B.E. (the chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. G. de B. Brounlie, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is good to see so many shareholders present, because it seems to show that, quite apart from the point of view of dividends, you are taking an interest in the working of what is an entirely new field for the investing public. If I am right, then I am sure it will not be wasting your time to give you a short history of this business of insuring credit.

It is now just thirty years ago that Mr. Spain, your underwriter, and I came into contact. He was second in command of a small company which came to grief from reasons unconnected with its legitimate business of insuring credit. I think it only lasted two or three years, but Mr. Spain had shown already a grasp of the business which gave confidence. He commenced to act as underwriter for credit business for our group at Lloyds. He so acted for nine years. After that time, for various reasons, it was thought better to transfer the working to an insurance company. We had such a company ready to our hand in the Excess Insurance Company, which is really part of the organisation of our office. All this time experience was being gained, and the premium steadily increased.

Then seven years ago the British Trade Corporation was formed. Those at the head of its affairs at once appreciated the great importance of credit insurance. As the Excess, which by this time had one or two competitors, was presumably the organisation with the greatest experience, it was asked by the British Trade Corporation to join forces, so far as this credit business was concerned. This was done, and the Trade Indemnity Company was formed. Though the British Trade Corporation was the largest shareholder, my firm still retained an interest not only in the capital of the Trade Indemnity, but in its business.

Well, the thing grew and grew, and in course of time it was thought that the importance of the scheme warranted a larger capital than £100,000. Indeed, we were pressed by bankers and others to go in for bigger things. It had always been my personal opinion that the scope for credit insurance was so large that it was essential to bring in the British insurance companies and, if possible, the banks. The names of your directors will show you that so far as the insurance companies were concerned the point was appreciated. It will be no breach of confidence to tell you that those responsible for the management of the banks gave us the greatest encouragement, and we number amongst our shareholders representatives of all the different classes of banks.

Now you will appreciate that it would have been impossible to obtain the help of these great institutions unless we had not only been able to point to the great importance of the scheme but also to show that the results over a series of years had been satisfactory. That we were able to do. The results for about thirty years have amply justified our faith.

Such, then, is briefly the history of our business. I will now turn to the principles of it. They are very simple. First of all, we will not permit anybody to simply trade on the security we offer. It is fundamental that if we lose the assured shall lose too. All we do is to enable an assured to undertake a larger venture than but for our insurance he would feel justified in undertaking. Secondly, we do not insure a risk which is already running. For all practical purposes the assured must be voluntarily risking his money at the same time that we risk ours. Thirdly, we are not bankers or financiers. We do not guarantee to provide the money if there is a delay in payment, neither if there is actual default do we pay on the nail, any more than a marine insurer pays when a ship goes ashore or a fire company when a house catches fire. Like them, we only pay the ultimate loss.

I always think that no insurance is justified which does not in itself improve the risk. That is eminently the case with us. The mere fact that we are willing, as a result of our inquiries, to insure a risk is in itself a justification for the merchant to go on with the transaction and to take his share of it. It is an actual fact that on more than one occasion clients have been saved from dangerous transactions as a result of our warnings.

I will not take up your time with a description of the methods we adopt for safeguarding our clients and our own interests. It is sufficient to say that it is hoped within the near future—and the process has already begun—to have a network of corresponding companies abroad who, so far as our foreign risks are concerned, will share in the responsibilities we assume.

Let me now turn to the account. When the new shareholders joined us it was necessary to arrive at a figure for the liabilities which they would assume, and also for the amount which in fairness should belong to the old shareholders. If you will turn to the underwriting account you will see that the liabilities were estimated at nearly £30,000. It turns out, however, that nearly £8,000 of that will not be required, by which amount you gentlemen have benefited. With the help of this sum we are able to pay our 5 per cent. dividend, to pay off the whole of the preliminary expenses of £2,698, and carry forward £3,289. We do not therefore touch the 1924 account. It is better from all points of view to wait till the end of this year before saying what the profits may be. This is the usual custom with marine insurance companies, and we have always followed it.

There is just one little point to which our attention has been drawn. I mention it because in one case the figures have not been properly understood.

In 1923 underwriting account "gross claims paid in 1924" means on 1923 and previous years. A comparatively small portion of these claims relate to 1923 underwriting, which left a very good profit.

As to probabilities we can at least congratulate ourselves that 1924 has begun extraordinarily well. Up to to-day we reckon that all known losses amount, apart from what is reinsured, roughly to about £8,000. This includes the £3,000 we have already paid away by December 31, and there are expenses of £8,000, making in all £16,000, against a net premium of just over £51,000. We estimate that two-thirds of the risk represented by that premium has already run off. So you will see we are in a very good position. To the balance which may be left out of the £35,000 which we now have in hand must be added the interest we shall receive on invested capital and premium. This interest should be round about £12,000. All the expenses, as I have said, of 1924 account have already been charged to it; so we shall have £47,000 with which to meet the liability on about £15,000 unearned premium. But I should like to warn you that this has been an extraordinary year so far. By the law of averages we shall have to pay for it later, and your directors wish to emphasise that this sort of thing cannot be expected to endure. A reasonable profit, I hope, we shall always make; at all events, we have done so in the past, but nothing like the percentage on our premiums which 1924 looks as if it would provide.

It was always my personal ambition to arrive at a premium of £50,000 net to ourselves for 1924. It is satisfactory that we have slightly exceeded this. We are hoping for increased business for 1925, and so far January and February have fully justified our hopes. Our ramifications are extending, and I should like especially to mention that prospects have justified us in opening a branch office at Manchester under the management of Mr. Alan Dean, in whom we have the greatest confidence.

Finally, I should like to say how much we are indebted to Mr. Spain and his officials for all the hard work and energy, not to speak of the judgment they have shown in conducting your business. If you knew as well as I do how exceptional the times have been and what problems have had to be solved, and how little leisure Mr. Spain and his staff have granted themselves, you would be as grateful as, I am sure, your directors are.

I beg to move: "That the directors' report and the statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1924, be and are hereby received and adopted."

Mr. James Hamilton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., subject to income-tax, for the year ended December 31, 1924, on the original share capital of £100,000, and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., subject to income-tax, calculated upon the amount paid up from the respective dates fixed for payment of the calls to December 31, 1924, upon the new issue of £150,000.

This resolution was seconded by Sir Philip Dawson, M.P., and unanimously approved.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting a resolution was unanimously passed making certain alterations in the articles as required by the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

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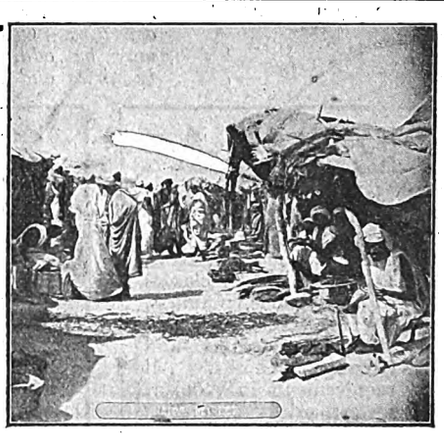

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 724—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Late Lord Curzon.

In the death of Lord Curzon Great Britain loses a commanding personality, a master intellect, and an accomplished scholar. That a statesman of his parts and with his record should have failed to occupy a larger niche in the popular imagination may be attributed as much to the fact that he never courted popularity as to any accident of manner that may have militated against it. Lord Curzon set a very high standard of public service and gave so unsparingly of his best to the State that it was perhaps not surprising that he found it difficult to regard himself in any other rôle than that of a servant of the State. As a young man he set himself deliberately to qualify for the posts that he subsequently held, and in this way acquired his knowledge, as traveller and student, of Near and Middle Eastern affairs. There was nothing in him as a man petty or affected; he was *le grand seigneur* as naturally and unconsciously as he indulged his passion for detail or his reluctance to devolve responsibility. A very large proportion of his correspondence was in his own handwriting; he found time to attend to minor matters of his own household. No one who was ever brought into close touch with him has failed to note his innate kindliness. His interest, once roused, could always be retained without difficulty. THE NEAR EAST, covering as it does a sphere which he had made particularly his own, has reason to be grateful for the helpful and unremitting interest with which Lord Curzon followed its career from the first year of its existence, and it has found a stimulus in the support that he was always ready to give it.

The Egyptian Crisis.

The second Parliament of the constitutional régime in Egypt has had a brief and lurid existence. Opened in the morning of March 23, it was dissolved before the end of the day. The Government of Ziwar Pasha had felt confident that it would meet the Chamber with a following of 111, as against 102 Zaghloulists. When the election of the President took place immediately after the reading of the King's Speech, 125 deputies voted for Zaghloul Pasha and only 85 for the Cabinet's nominee. The subsequent election of Vice-Presidents produced overwhelming majorities against the Coalition candidates. It was evident that delegates to the number of twenty-five who had publicly announced their secession from the Wafd for the purposes of the elections had thrown in their lot again with Zaghloul Pasha. Their action is too contemptible to call for comment: a country which has to put up with Parliamentary delegates of that type is to be pitied. A more serious aspect of the situation is that Egypt, by a majority of its electors, can complacently contemplate a further challenge to Great Britain and deliberately rejects co-operation. Ziwar Pasha and those associated with him are to make one more attempt to bring the country to reason. New elections are to be held on May 23, and the next Parliament will be opened on June 1. If there is then a working majority for co-operation with Great Britain, all may yet be well with Egypt.

Minorities in the Balkans.

As was pointed out in these columns last week, the problem of minorities in the Balkans still remains unsolved, even when the Greek Government is invited by the Council of the League of Nations to state what its intentions are in the matter. The fact is that Greece herself is in the throes of the problem. She has been keeping a large number of Greek refugees hitherto in the Peloponnese and the islands; these she is anxious to transfer to Macedonia for a variety of reasons. This step will inevitably set considerably more than a hundred thousand Bulgarians now in Macedonia trekking into Bulgaria, which has already reached saturation point in regard to the number of refugees that she can absorb. The presence of these additional refugees can hardly fail to increase the unrest in Bulgaria, to the prejudice of the peace of the Peninsula, quite apart from the hardships suffered by the victims of the migration. If the League of Nations were to move in the matter it should be possible so to regulate the transfer of the

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Greek population from the south as to minimise the evil results. To postpone the movement altogether for two or three years might prove the best solution; for Greece, in gratitude for the Refugee Loan which enables her to face her great problem with some degree of confidence, may be agreeable to listen to outside advice. If the transfer has to be, then it should be so carefully regulated that time is given to the dispossessed Bulgarians to move and to be absorbed in Bulgaria. This cannot be done if they are driven out in masses and settled all together in one spot in the country; they should be transferred a few families at a time and distributed in groups throughout the kingdom, so as to be more or less easily absorbed. Above all, compensation must be provided on an adequate scale, if only to stave off the danger of moving too many at once. In other words, the League of Nations must act to carry out the work that the Minorities Protocol was intended to do.

Foreign Embassies in Turkey.

It is inevitable that the decision to retain the foreign Embassies in Constantinople should cause heartburnings to the Turkish Government. For our own part we should prefer that Great Britain should incur without any hesitation the expense of a new Embassy in Angora, if only as evidence of good will towards the Republic, and should trust to recovering the cost in the improved relations between the two countries. There are, however, two sides to the question, and we hope that the Turks will be broadminded enough to appreciate this point. First of all, it has to be borne in mind by them that it is just as inconvenient for the Great Powers to have the Turkish capital at Angora while their Embassies remain at Constantinople as it is for the Turks to have the Embassies at a considerable distance from the capital. The Turkish point of view is very clear: Angora is to be the capital for all time, and custom requires foreign Embassies to be where the Government to which they are accredited is located. The Great Powers presumably argue on this wise:—Angora was originally selected as capital for military reasons; if the basis of the Turkish Republic is to be a Western orientation, violence is done to the intention by retaining Angora instead of Constantinople as the seat of Government; there has been little in the Republic's record so far to suggest that Turkey has irrevocably eliminated all prospect of any change in her outlook on things in general, and in view of the manifest shortcomings and inconveniences of Angora as a capital, is it complimentary to Turkey to take it for granted that she will never change her mind in regard to a decision taken under the stress of a Greek invasion and of acute xenophobia? Moreover, Foreign Ministers are human, and anyone sitting in his office or at his home in a Western European capital may be inclined to ask himself what right he has to condemn a friend and a distinguished fellow public servant to spend four or five years of his life in a place lacking the amenities of civilisation so glaringly as Angora does. Here, indeed, is a subtle compliment to Turkey as far as Great Britain is concerned. The latter wishes to be represented by someone near the top of his profession, who may justifiably expect a diplomatic setting more attractive than, say, Tirana or Tahiti. If present intentions are carried out, the day will perhaps come when Angora will have qualified as one of the world's capitals. To-day, as the Turks themselves acknowledge, it is a makeshift affair, and for this reason they must not press the point that foreign diplomatists must share all the disabilities and shortcomings that Turkey's rulers have so finely faced under the stimulus of an all-compelling patriotism.

INDIA.

Lord Curzon.

India has travelled a long way since the years when Lord Curzon was Viceroy, and it is possible now to see his work in something like its true perspective Turning over the records of the time, one finds indeed the Curzon of Indian tradition, the tireless administrator who strained almost to breaking-point the huge machine of which he was in charge, who rode roughshod over the nascent sentiment of nationality, who hustled and jostled a country too little conscious of the value of time. There is truth there, but not the most important truth. The inspiration of his real work was drawn from the soil. He realised, intensely and practically, what some of his successors have occasionally seemed to overlook, that India is a land of peasants, crushed by the load of centuries of oppression, not by any means placid or contented, but unable to lift their heads without assistance. In his own words, "it is the Indian poor, the Indian peasant, the patient, humble, silent millions, who know very little of policies, but who profit or suffer by their results. He has been in the background of every policy for which I have been responsible. He should be the first and final object of every Viceroy's regard."

His Economic Policy.

The phrases we have quoted were not mere rhetoric, but show the basis of the economic policy by which Lord Curzon will be remembered. He attacked the problem from two sides. On the one hand, he put help within the peasants' grasp, on the other he tried to stimulate the peasant to reach out his hand. The extension of irrigation, the application of the resources of modern science to the peasants' traditional art, the educative gospel of co-operation, these were his great gifts to India. Their significance may have been obscured for the moment by the concentration of Indian brains on political development, but the work goes on, and already it has brought about a definite change in the outlook of the best peasants over large regions of the country. It is much that new canals are bringing life to the deserts, and that the problems of Indian agriculture are yielding one by one to study and research, but of even greater value is the opening of the new vista, leading to the time when the peasants shall come into their inheritance, when they shall no longer need a Curzon for their champion, but shall choose their own leaders, whether from their own ranks or from among the classes which still ignore them or despise them.

Politics and Economics.

We hope none of our readers will be tempted to infer from what we have written that we desire to exalt Lord Curzon by depreciating the work of his successors. We hold, as we have said so often, that in inaugurating a democratic development of the Constitution, England has done the right thing by India, and that she is bound to persevere in face of momentary discouragements; but that conviction is based on the fact that a democratic India must be a peasant State. What is wanted now is that practical politics and practical economics should go forward hand in hand. We want to see the peasants taking an increasing share in politics, more careful in choosing their representatives, and more diligent in keeping them up to the mark. We want to see the politicians more ready to discard their old shibboleths, more anxious to understand the peasants' life, and preparing themselves to

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become the servants of those who must ultimately be their masters. It is doubtful whether any purely economic policy could have been entirely successful under the old régime. It is, at the least, highly probable that such a policy will triumph when skill and science are backed by vocal popular support.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Lord Curzon.

It is curiously difficult to estimate the normal citizen's estimate of Lord Curzon. Quite certainly he was never popular—not even in the restricted sense in which Mr. Baldwin is now popular; but equally certainly the common folk are grieved at his death. He was too remote from them ever to be really "understood"; his human appeal was a private and not a public appeal; and he had, of course, a condescension of manner and of habit which too often provoked a quick and unjust judgment upon him. One thing about him, however, was certain: he was both a sufferer and a worker—a combination which the British public inevitably respects, even if its enthusiasm is not thereby kindled.

That Lord Curzon, who was so many things, would have liked to be Prime Minister is now taken for granted, but that such an occupancy would have been disastrous to his fame is equally accepted. One finds people very hesitant before applying the word "greatness" to his political qualities, although it is possible that History may class him as one of the great Viceroys. Of his Foreign Secretaryship it is difficult to say anything other than the commonplace—that he had more knowledge than imagination, that his Imperialistic dogmas were the impracticable overlappings of a bygone age, and that, however spotless his personal integrity was, the charge of opportunism on his part cannot be wholly avoided.

It is probably in the minor remembrances pertaining to the governance of a University, artistic leanings, travelling experiences, and so on, that he will most honourably be treasured among the present generation. For, man to man, he was discerning and almost charming, kind and human and loyal.

Cabinet Changes.

Rumours have already begun upon the changes that may take place in the Cabinet consequent upon Lord Curzon's death. It is expected that the office which the late statesman held—Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords—will be given to Lord Salisbury. Also, it is stated—on how good authority I have no means of knowing—that Lord Birkenhead will succeed Lord Reading as Viceroy of India in the autumn; this move would allow Sir Robert Horne to become Secretary of State for India.

One wonders whether Lord Derby, who, it will be remembered, "stood down" from the last Cabinet, will be given one of the vacancies that are going. Mr. Baldwin's present tendency appears to be to pick out the more moderate men.

Joseph Chamberlain's House.

We were intrigued a few days ago by the announcement that Joseph Chamberlain's London house was for sale, and that though a Tariff Reformer could have it for £2,500, "anyone else" would be asked for £3,000. The possibility of a disturbance of the Protective atmosphere is so evidently contemplated that one might almost say that it was a probability. Are there any rich Tariff Reformers? One always thought that they were all those who wished to be but were not yet.

But, of course, these things are a sign of the time. *Autre temps* but *même maisons* is the age's watchword. There is hardly anything that has not been converted from its first austere purposes. Is not an Englishman's house by Jerusalem to form a place of learning for Jews? Is not Devonshire House to be made a block of flats (or is it shops)? Is not the house in St. James's Square where Chatham and Gladstone once lived now devoted to the purposes of *studying* foreign affairs? Thus do edifices, noble once in their time, become perverted, and their ghosts laid low, by the needs of the time!

There must, however, be a limit to this sort of thing. Otherwise we shall read of houses for sale of Greeks to anyone else but Armenians, of Lowland Scots to anyone else but Highland Scots, of Zionists to anyone else but Jews. But perhaps one could, if one could but read their languages.

Money-Lending.

The evils of moneylending have recently received much and merited publicity, and last week two Bills—one by Lord Carson in the House of Lords, the other by Mr. Wells in the Commons—were received with much sympathy. The Government has instituted a Joint Committee for embodying the best points of both Bills, so that something much more drastic than the effete law of 1900 may be hopefully expected.

The problem, which has become increasingly urgent since the War, which brought unusual financial stringencies, is sometimes represented as being more difficult than it really is. Pessimists represent England as having been in the moils of the question since the Plantagenets, whereas it is a fact, I believe, that moneylending, once the Mediæval Church had got its foot down and Edward I. had expelled the Jews from this country, hardly pressed on people at all until the end of the seventeenth century. (It was one of Cromwell's whims, of course, the merits of which have been variously estimated, to allow the Jews to return.) That it has now become so wide a practice is not so much a weakness on the part of our people—as it is, for instance, on the part of the Indian peasant—as of the utter dependence which the modern industrial system has created upon the possession of ready money. And, of course it is probable that the number of fools who are deceived by usurers' lying circulars is increasing.

"G. K.'s Weekly."

At last *G. K.'s Weekly*, long-heralded and expected, has appeared, and a very fascinating publication it is. This first number appears almost

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wholly to be written by the editor himself—a record which is seldom possible or desirable. Whether Mr. Chesterton has ever before been an Editor I do not know, but if the most stimulating and fear-free journalist of our time can collect round his banner a platoon of sufficiently fighting strength, and not merely the remnants of that gallant band who went with the *Eye-Witness* and the *New-Witness* to noble and memorable death, there is just a chance, I should say, that it may not fail. Manifestly, there are millions of advertisements which this new journal cannot hope to get; and it will, seemingly, depend upon the support of those which it ought to have. An adequate circulation is, I should imagine, assured.

Madame Tussaud's.

I do not know why I, who had never been to Madame Tussaud's since I was about ten, should write about the end by fire of this Victorian institution. Of recent years the entertainment at Madame Tussaud's appears to have been a difficult matter; this generation would rather read about in the newspapers or see in the Law Courts the villains whom our own foremothers shuddered at in the Chamber of Horrors. But for a cinema on the premises, it is said, Madame Tussaud's, which was really as much a survival of Victorian fashions as Wembley is of Imperialistic sentiment, would never have paid. Whether it will be reconstituted I do not know, but it seems very doubtful whether such a show could ever gain the hold on a future generation which the old one made, and for some time preserved, with the past. After all, the picture papers and the cinematograph and the "wireless" are sufficient contemporary history for most people.

Sport.

Spring came on Saturday to England with snow, to Scotland with an English defeat, and to London with a win for Oxford. The Rugger match at Edinburgh, by winning which Scotland has bagged the Calcutta Cup, and becomes champion country for the first time for many years, appears to have been a most desperate affair, with one or two rather inexplicable "incidents." From the broad point of view, it is by no means a bad thing for Scotland to have won. Why is it, by the bye, that whereas Scotland's Rugger side is always a gallant and skilled company, her cricket side is so moderate? Is it climate or temperament or what?

At Queen's Club, in wretched weather, Oxford beat Cambridge in the Sports by six events to five. Porritt, the New Zealander, broke a record on behalf of Oxford, doing the sprint in 9 9-10 sec.; and certainly, had the weather not been so wintry, Van Geyzel, of Cambridge, would have cleared 6 ft. 3 in. in the high jump.

Now for the Boat Race next Saturday, in training for which Oxford have so far had all the bad luck. A Cambridge victory in something is long overdue—Rugger, Soccer, Hockey, and Sports have all gone to the wrong people.

Round the Galleries.

The artistic sensation of the moment is the show at the Leicester Galleries of the works of Norman Lindsay, the Australian artist. Everyone, in fact, is going there. As a matter of fact, Lindsay, who has been compared with Rubens and with Beardsley, mainly because his nudes have the Rubens physique and his males the Beardsley longing, has little more than pictorial fancy. Certainly his drawing would have better adorned dug-outs than did snippets from *La Vie Parisienne* or from Kirchner; but there is not much more to be said of him. If you wish to see modern art at its best and at its most stimulating, look at the etchings and water-colours of Edward Blampied at the same show; you will find movement expressed as very few other artists can express it. Blampied, quite definitely now, is a very fine painter as well as an etcher.

There is a refreshing tone of variety in the Spring Exhibition of water-colours and oils arranged at the Goupil Gallery, Regent Street. It is a distinguished show, containing Johns, Gills, Prydes, Laura Knights, Sickerts, Gertlers, Nicholsons, and so on. This is a really interesting exhibition, in which there is plenty to study, admire, and dislike. It provokes and stimulates, and is certainly of great educative value. Personally, I found the most surprising satisfaction in the examples of Rodney Burn.

In another part of the galleries are some extremely fascinating paintings by Miss Sylvia Gosse This artist has a very firm hold, artistically, on life: she knows what she wants to paint, believes whole-heartedly in its merits, and sees it through. And so you get as much relish in the representation of a music-hall scene as of gladioli or of a curlew. A very able show indeed.

Alter Ego.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha on March 16 received the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Lindsay.

In Convocation on March 17, the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University presiding, it was agreed to affix the seal of the University to an address of congratulation on the opening of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem.

M. de Wirsen, President of the League Commission for settling the Mosul frontier dispute, has informed the Secretary-General that he hopes to present his final report in time for its consideration at the next Council meeting in June.

It is reported from Massawa, in Italian Eritrea, that Mahmud Nedim Bey, the last Turkish Vali of the Yemen, has concluded an agreement on behalf of his present employer, the Imam Yehia of Sanaa, with the Italian authorities.

It is proposed that Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, Dr. Rennie McInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, and Sir Arthur Schuster, F.R.S., should be appointed delegates of Cambridge University at the opening of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on April 1, and that they should present an address from the University.

According to *The Times* Mosul correspondent, the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to report on the frontier between Iraq and Turkey returned there on March 18 from a tour in the Zakho and Dohuk districts. The Commission has now completed its inquiry. The members of the Commission last Thursday flew over disputed territory north of the Branting line. The Commission arranged to leave Mosul for Europe via Deir-ez-Zor on March 23.

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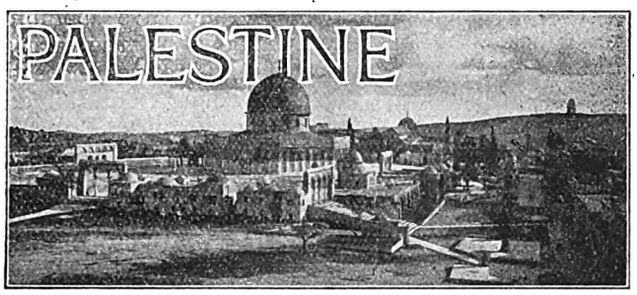
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, March 14.

The Arab "Strike."

Not till "Balfour Arrival Day" will it be possible to pass judgment on what the "Arab Executive" strike threat is really worth. At present nobody seems to anticipate anything serious, and opinion is more or less general that, should anything happen, the utmost discredit will have been well-earned by this handful of Arabs who have taken so much upon themselves. No special reaction yet seems to be apparent in Arab circles or in the Arab Press as a whole. The "Arab Executive" still plays the part of the virtuous preserver of the peace, and in this capacity saw fit yesterday to publish throughout the local Press an open letter to the High Commissioner beseeching him to weigh carefully, before it is too late, the fact that the Government and Zionists have only themselves to blame if anything untoward should happen during the Balfour visit, as a result of any expression of happiness among the Jews.

The conclusion of this open letter is worth quoting:

"Inasmuch as the country has resolved to cease from work on the day when Lord Balfour shall enter the country, and lest there happen any error in the date of his arrival in Palestine—whereby the inhabitants shall be forced to cease from work on *two* days—the Arab Executive desires the Government to inform the public of the day of Lord Balfour's coming at least a week beforehand."

Improving Jaffa.

In spite of the fact that it has now been finally determined that not Jaffa, but Haifa, is to become the first Palestinian port, hope is still held out to Jaffa that it will not suffer too severely from the handicap. A Commission has been appointed by the High Commissioner to examine into conditions at Jaffa. The members of the Commission will be the District Governor, Jerusalem-Jaffa District, as chairman, and the Director of Health, the Director of Public Works, the Director of Customs, Excise and Trade, the General Manager Palestine Railways, Mr. C. D. Harvey (Senior Assistant Treasurer), His Worship the Mayor of Jaffa, the President of the Tel-Aviv Township, Messrs. Hoofien and Tolkowsky, Emile Effendi Berouti, and Yusuf Effendi Taleb. The Commission is asked to examine, in particular, the following projects:—

(a) The diversion of the main railway line between Haifa and Kantara so as to pass through Jaffa and Tel-Aviv.

(b) The construction of a small jetty between Jaffa and Tel-Aviv.

The Commission will recommend, in general, measures for the improvement of the present landing facilities of the port itself, the reconditioning of the sea-wall, the provision of better accommodation for lighters and better Customs buildings, the improvement of the communications between the town and the port, and the amelioration of the present arrangements for the disembarkation and quarantine of travellers and immigrants.

Jewish Immigration.

Jewish immigration still keeps up to an average of some 2,000 a month. The official returns for January, just published, give a total of 1,775. The preponderance of "persons of independent means" is noticeable—a characteristic feature of the newcomers for nearly a year past—733, as against 447, who entered with "a definite prospect of employment with specified employers or enterprises." Noteworthy as throwing light on the favourable impression the prospect of Palestine can make on the outsider, is the note appended to the official returns to the effect that 147 people who came to visit the country determined to stay in it. Unemployment throughout the winter has been negligible. In Jaffa and Haifa there have been some strikes and a "lock-out"—attempts at adjusting the strong system of organised Jewish labour to the more pronounced individualism of the increasing number of employers organising new industries. Emigrants total 224—95 Jews and 129 non-Jews.

A Roman Aqueduct.

Note should be made of a new and accidental discovery some weeks past of a Roman aqueduct (or sewer—though it seems to be too clean for this) under the premises of the so-called "Wailing Wall Synagogue," near the Haram area. This aqueduct must have communicated with the Jewish Temple Courtyard. It is a branch of the old irrigation or sewage system of which "Wilson's Arch" formed a part. The Department of Antiquities and the Department of Public Works are working on the site, and it is hoped to have it ready for public access by April 1.

The Samaritans.

The Samaritans are an interesting race, but their depressed circumstances occasionally bring out unlovely characteristics. Cases have recently occurred of certain members of the community selling tickets to tourists for the celebration of the Samaritan Passover on Mount Gerizim—quite the most weirdly interesting antiquity of Palestine. The Samaritan High Priest has found himself compelled to publish widely the fact that such sellers of tickets are swindlers, and that the crest of Mount Gerizim and the sight of the Samaritan celebration is free to all comers.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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IRAQ.

Baghdad, March 11.

Frontier Commission.

Owing to illness, Count Teleki has come down from Arbil to Baghdad. Of the other members of the Commission, the President is still at Mosul and Count Paulis at Kirkuk. It is expected that the Commission will reassemble at Mosul some time next month. The members appear to be surprised to find the vilayet of Mosul no less Arab in sympathy than it has been represented to be by the British at Lausanne and elsewhere.

Election of Secondary Electors.

The number of primary electors having been checked and considerably reduced in number, the elections have now begun. A request has been received from Mosul that they may be delayed until the Frontier Commission has finished its work, so that the country may be able to present a united front during its investigations without the divisions caused by political partisanship.

Oil Concession.

For some weeks past the local Press has been full of articles attacking the Turkish Petroleum Syndicate and extolling the terms offered by rival companies, such as the Phœnix. These articles all take the view that the granting of so valuable a concession is outside the power of the Cabinet, but is a matter to be dealt with by Parliament when it assembles. During the last few days, however, after the issue by the Cabinet of a guarded pronouncement to the effect that they were prepared to accept responsibility, a change of tone has been discernible in the Press, which now advocates a speedy settlement of the matter. It states that the British Petroleum Company is shared by British, French, and American interests, which will use their influence in the Council of the League of Nations to obtain their share of the oil of Mosul. Probably these groups do not mind whether their concession is granted by Iraq or by Turkey so long as they get it, and if Iraq refuses a concession they will endeavour so to influence the League's final decision on the frontier question as to allot Mosul to Turkey, in the hope of obtaining a concession from the Ottoman Government. Simultaneously with this change of front the Cabinet is understood to have stated that most of the differences between it and the Turkish Petroleum Company have now been settled, except for a few outstanding points, on which one Minister has been deputed to arrange if possible with the company's representative. Five out of the seven members of the Cabinet support the decisions already reached, but the Ministers of Justice and Education are reported to have tendered their resignations, which have not been accepted up to date.

Raid on Trans-Desert Convoy.

On the night of Thursday, March 5, a motor convoy of the Eastern Transport Company, which had left Baghdad for Beyrout at noon that day, was held up by Bedouin. The robbers fired low, probably with intent to put the cars out of action, but Mme. Maillard, wife of the French Vice-Consul in Baghdad, was mortally injured, and died shortly afterwards. The first car, which was only slightly damaged, escaped from the marauders and made its way as fast as possible to Palmyra, where the driver found a convoy about to start for Baghdad, and was able to send help to the other car. The passengers had been looted, but there were no further casualties.

Two ambulance aeroplanes and five bombing machines were at once sent out by the British authorities, carrying the Administrative Inspector and the Inspecting Officer of Police from Ramadi, and the Baghdad agent of the Eastern Transport Company. About seventy miles west of Hit they met the incoming convoy, but it was then too dark for aeroplanes to locate the robbers. Ten armoured cars were sent out on the following day, and every effort is being made to ensure that no more attacks of this nature interrupt the vital desert line of communication between Iraq and Syria.

Ministerial Visits.

It is officially announced that Mr. Hilton Young is to visit Baghdad this month, at the invitation of the British Government, to advise the Government of Iraq on its financial affairs, and later to report on the subject to a financial commission in Great Britain. Baghdad is also awaiting the arrival of Mr. Amery and Sir Samuel Hoare, who are to visit Iraq and Palestine on official business, accompanied by Sir John Shuckburgh, K.C.M.G., head of the Middle East Department of the Colonial Office, and Group Captain C. S. Burnett, C.B.E., D.S.O., of the Air Ministry. It is hoped that this earnest of Great Britain's friendly interest in Iraq may foreshadow the formulation of a definite policy, and the provision of that co-ordination and direction of the administration which the country at present sorely needs.

General.

The Administration has suffered a severe loss in the death from pneumonia, at the early age of forty-three, of Major H. C. Pulley, O.B.E., Assistant Adviser to the Ministry of Interior. An officer of the Indian Army, Major Pulley served in the Civil Administration of Iraq from its earliest days, first as Political Officer at Hillah, then, after the setting up of the Arab Government, as Divisional Adviser at Amarah, and afterwards at the Ministry of Interior. His personal qualities had endeared him to British and Iraqi officials alike, and his loss will be very greatly felt.

The Asfar Concessionaires have begun their experimental work in the Diala Liwa. Six hundred acres are being ploughed this year by Fordson tractors, and cotton is to be grown on the newest modern lines.

The sum of Rs. 14,000 is to be included in the Iraq Budget as provision for the education of the Amir Ghazi, Crown Prince of Iraq.

The alarmist reports about the Kurdish revolt are regarded with suspicion in this country, where it is felt that the rising has been exaggerated to afford a pretext for massing troops within easy striking distance of Iraq's northern frontier should the decision of the Commission go against Turkey.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 16.

The Next Prime Minister.

The most important political event of the past fortnight was the designation by M. Ion Bratiano of General Averescu as his successor as Prime Minister.

The incident deserves special attention, not only because of its delectable details, but because it

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exemplifies to perfection the type of political transaction which is characteristic of Roumania. The staging, as the Opposition Press calls it, was skilfully prepared with true Liberal psychology, and has had all the desired effects.

The facts are as follows:—On Saturday, February 28, General Averescu, leader of the People's Party, which, until that date, had, as a sign of protest against a Parliament declared by the Opposition to have been elected by false practices, taken no part in the Parliamentary deliberations, made his first entry into the Chamber and asked the Prime Minister how he intended to carry out during this session the administrative and electoral reforms.

M. Ion Bratiano, who, with nearly all his colleagues, was in his place on the Ministerial bench, replied briefly that the present Government would keep its engagements and adhere to its programme, and added that certain questions, such as that which troubled General Averescu, were questions not belonging to the special interests of any political party, but were part of a programme of consolidation to which any seriously-minded Government would give its attention. Any sincere and disinterested efforts towards consolidation, he said, would give to a party a title to the government of the country and the continuation of the work of consolidation. General Averescu expressed his satisfaction at M. Bratiano's words, and immediately left the Chamber. M. Bratiano also went out. The dialogue had lasted a few minutes.

In order that the whole importance of the matter may be clearly realised, it should be remembered that General Averescu had not crossed the threshold of the Chamber for three years and a-half, and that on various occasions during the present legislature the Opposition has addressed interpellations to the Prime Minister to which he has not troubled to reply. Thus the above dialogue leaves the impression of a preconcerted one, and the immediate departure of the President of the Council of Ministers seems to emphasise this.

The Stratagem Criticised.

Nevertheless, to a stranger, unaccustomed to Roumanian political methods, the incident might well have passed unnoticed as a mere coincidence, and that is where the consummate art of the Liberals in such matters can be seen. No one, however, was deceived by the artifice, and both M. Manius, leader of the former National Party, and Dr. Lupu, representing the Tsaranists, who were present on February 28, rose and criticised with vehemence the sudden departure of the Prime Minister immediately after replying to General Averescu. The whole of the Opposition Press is loud in indignation against these "methods of Vizir, and not of Prime Minister," as M. Madgearu expressed it.

What makes the Opposition most bitter is the understanding which they think is evident but unjust between the Liberals and General Averescu with a view to the succession to power.

The programmes of the other Opposition parties represent a majority of the electors should they bring about an appeal to the electorate, but they now see the chances of a free election vanishing into thin air. Their newspapers also accuse M. Bratiano of disregarding the eventual wishes of the King by forcing the new Government upon him.

Liberal Intentions.

On the other hand, this fairly clear designation of General Averescu as their successor does not mean that the Liberals intend to retire in the near future. They have long regarded General Averescu's party as representing an ideal government to be in power when they have gone into opposition, and the ceremony of February 28 was probably only intended to keep up the courage of the Averescans and give them renewed hopes. Moreover, it is in the interests of the Liberals to keep the three Opposition parties of equal strength, the United National Party, the Tsaranists, and the People's Party, so as to avoid any further union.

The Green Book.

The Green Book, in which the Roumanian Government sets forth its claims in regard to the dispute with Germany on the subject of reparation for the note issue of the Banca Generala during the Occupation, has just been published, and has been distributed to the Allied Governments and the Foreign Press. It is a well-compiled book of about 300 pages, which shows that the legality of the Roumanian debt has never been proved. However, it is probable that the difference will be settled by direct negotiations, and that the threats of an economic war will not be carried into execution.

Sofia, March 17.

The Minority Protocol.

The report made by Mr. Chamberlain to the Council of the League of Nations concerning the Minority Protocol which Greece signed with the League in September, 1924, but which the Greek Parliament afterwards rejected, has created great interest here.

Satisfaction is expressed at the action of the League in asking Greece what she has done, what she is doing, and what she will do for Minorities, notably those speaking the Slav tongue. While it is felt that the Council, having once interested itself in the question of Minorities, will have to follow the matter up, it is at the same time gradually becoming recognised that the prime object of Great Britain and France is to arrange that the Græco-Yugoslav alliance be renewed. As Great Britain and France have much influence in the Council, it is thus feared that Bulgarian interests may be sacrificed. Furthermore, those people who had imagined that the League's Council would insist on Greece's accepting the Protocol have been doomed to disappointment.

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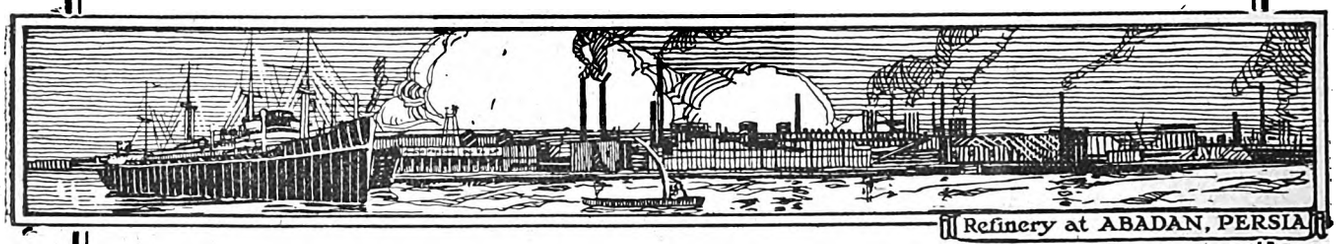

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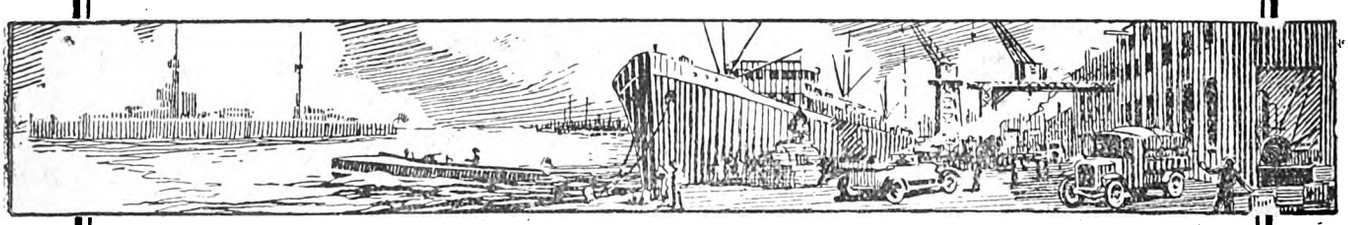

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Foreign Affairs, returns to Sofia from Geneva it is impossible to foresee the attitude which the Government will take up regarding the question of Minorities. It is known that the official view is that it will be nothing short of disastrous if the Bulgarians still remaining in Greek Macedonia and Thrace are forced to leave their homes during the coming spring. The Government is afraid that the arrival of this fresh contingent of refugees may create a crisis in Macedonian circles. The discontent already prevalent might become such that the forces of law and order would be powerless to prevent disorders. In addition, the Government fears that the Communists will profit by such a state of affairs, and that those refugees who have hitherto refused to listen to Communist arguments may be constrained to do so when they see more of their countrymen fleeing from Greece. Lastly, the Government is in a quandary where to instal any more refugees that enter Bulgaria.

It is therefore obvious that during the next few months very much will depend on the way in which the Greek authorities behave towards Bulgarian Minorities. If the League of Nations shows that it is determined that justice shall be carried out, then there is yet hope that an amicable arrangement may be reached. If the League fails, then it will be yet another proof that the Geneva "atmosphere," while being conducive to flowery speeches, is in reality more of a danger than a benefit.

A Cabinet Council.

On Saturday morning, March 14, the Council of Ministers were summoned to the Royal Palace, where they remained for five hours. In the evening a *communiqué* was issued in which it was stated that different matters of internal and external interest were discussed, and that perfect unanimity was found to exist between the Sovereign and his Ministers.

This prolonged meeting has excited a good deal of curiosity, as it is the first time for many years that the Cabinet has been convoked to the Palace in a body. Conjectures are rife on what really happened during the five hours that the Ministers were with their Sovereign, but so far the secret—if there be one—has been well kept. The only rumour worth attaching any importance to is that the question of whether the Communist Deputies should be excluded from the Sobranye formed one of the principal topics of conversation between the Ministers and His Majesty. In this connection it is said that there existed a certain divergence of opinion on whether the Communists should be excluded or not.

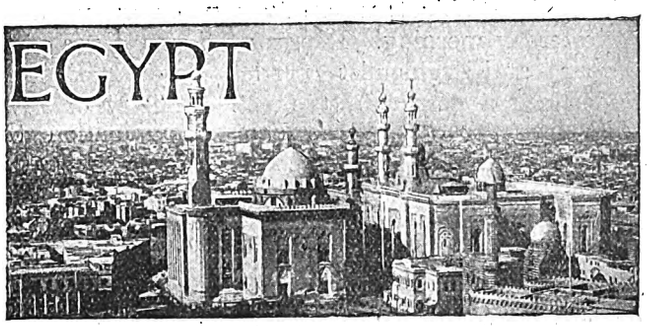
Captain Noel Wood.

The death has occurred at Sofia of Captain Noel Wood. An original member of the British Delegation on the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission, Captain Wood had recently been appointed Secretary-General of the Commission. Captain Wood (who was 36 years of age) had been in perfect health when, on Saturday, March 7, he was suddenly struck down by an attack of appendicitis. This degenerated into peritonitis, and, despite an operation performed a few days later, he died on the 15th. Serving during the War in France, Captain Wood possessed several War decorations. He was highly respected by the British colony and by all Bulgarians and foreigners who knew him in Sofia. He leaves a wife and two children.

News in Brief.

The Bulgarian Government has requested the permission of the Council of Ambassadors temporarily to enrol ten thousand soldiers over and above the ordinary establishment. The reason dictating this step is the fear that with the coming of spring Communist activities may increase.

M. Simeon Radeff, Bulgarian Diplomatic Representative at Constantinople, has arrived at Sofia for a short visit. It is believed that a Bulgarian Turkish Treaty of amity may shortly be concluded.



Cairo, March 15.

The Elections.

Even though the electoral issue has been decided in all but a few constituencies, it is almost impossible to say with whom rests the victory. Between the official figures and those of the Wafd there is a margin of nearly thirty seats, and, to add to the confusion, each side claims that it is receiving daily additions of strength by desertions from the opposing camp. Thus on Friday evening the Wafd published a list of nineteen deputies who had been shown either as Independents or Unionists in the list on which the official figures were based, but who the Zaghloulist executive declared had all since their election sent written declarations of their adhesion to the Wafd. On the other hand, the Ministry of the Interior yesterday issued a list of six deputies who had been elected on the Zaghloulist ticket, but who had, the official statement declared, immediately afterwards notified the Government of their having resigned from the Wafd with the intention of joining one or other of the parties of the anti-Zaghloulist bloc. It is typical of the present state of Egyptian politics that both sides should be striving so hard to create an atmosphere of victory. In this country, more than in most others, the assumption of an appear-

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ance of success is one of the best method of securing success itself.

The New Ministry.

But, while the strength of the new Government will not be known with any certainty until the first division in the new Parliament, there remains no doubt regarding the strength of the Coalition Cabinet, whose formation was announced yesterday morning. Representative of three of the four anti-Zaghloulist parties (the Nationalists declined a portfolio), the new Ministry of Ziwar Pasha is certainly the ablest combination that Egypt has ever known. In most other countries the Cabinet just formed would probably be criticised on the grounds that it consists almost exclusively of lawyers, but in Egypt, where commerce is despised and journalism discredited, there is really only the law on which to draw. In the circumstances, there is greater force in criticism based on the allocation of portfolios. The transference of Cattaoui Pasha from Finance to Communications, and the allocation of the former Ministry to Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, has been much commented on, and it must be assumed there was some good reason for this with which the public is not acquainted. Similarly, the appointment of Tewfik Bey Doss to the Ministry of Agriculture has given rise to discussion, for Doss Bey's prominence hitherto has arisen from his many triumphs at the Bar, and not least in his many appearances for the defence in trials before British military courts. At the same time, Doss Bey is a landowner who has taken an active interest in matters of agricultural policy, and—this was doubtless the deciding factor—if he was to be included in the Cabinet, and if, as was inevitable, the Ministry of Justice was to be allocated to Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy, there was no other portfolio which could so appropriately be given the Coptic lawyer as that of Agriculture.

In debating power, as well as in administrative ability, the new Government is exceptionally powerful. Ismail Sidky Pasha, Tewfik Bey Doss, Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy, and Mohammed Bey Aly are among the four best public speakers in the country. The new Parliament, if only Fate be kind to it and grant it a reasonably long life, should provide us with debates of exceptional interest. Unfortunately, from this point of view, many of Zaghloul Pasha's ablest lieutenants have been defeated at the polls, and on the opposition side of the house there will be few speakers of ability excepting the Wafd leader himself.

Judge James Harry Scott.

By the death of Judge James Harry Scott at Helouan last Monday morning many good causes in Cairo lost a generous helper. A keen Freemason, one of the founder members of the local Caledonian Society, on the committee of the Cairo Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., he was an elder of St. Andrew's Church from its opening in 1909, and was a pioneer of the Fellowship of Unity movement locally. From 1901 to 1914 he was a professor at the Royal School of Law. During the War he served with the Scottish Horse, and was afterwards Legal Adviser to the Government of Palestine, returning in 1920 to Egypt and being appointed a judge in the Mixed Courts. His book, "The Law Affecting Foreigners in Egypt," gained for him the LL.D. and the third class Mejidieh, and has become the standard work on the subject.

The Coming of Spring.

It is not only the warmer weather of the last few days which serves as a reminder of the coming of spring. The hotels are indulging in a final furious burst of fêtes; duck shooting ended on Friday, and to-morrow the practice nets will be up at Gezira for cricketers in search of their summer's form. On Wednesday the opera season will end with a final performance of "Madame Butterfly." Archæologists are beginning to return to Cairo from Luxor and elsewhere. Everything, in fact, including the large number of auction sales of furniture belonging to officials who will sever their connection with Egypt on April 1, serves to remind us that another hot weather is near at hand.

St. Patrick's Day.

On Tuesday local Irishmen will revive the St. Patrick's Day dinner, which has not been held in Cairo, I believe, since a memorable occasion, several years before the War, at the Savoy Hotel. The Crown Prince of Germany was staying in the hotel, and, hearing that the dinner was in progress, expressed a wish to enter the dining room. The feast had by that time ended, and it happened that a well-known Cairo Irishman, then serving in the Survey Department, but since retired, was executing a wild dance down the long table whirling around in his hand a very fair substitute for a shillelagh. The Irishman reached the end of the table just as the Crown Prince entered the door. In the excitement of a final whirl the dancer did not notice the door being opened, with the result that the Crown Prince received the full force of a smashing blow from the club full on the forehead. The Prince dropped like a stone, and, in spite of being freely soused with soda-water, he did not recover consciousness until half an hour later, when he had been put to bed in his room. The Crown Prince and the Savoy Hotel have both undergone many changes of fortune since then, and there is little chance of anything so exciting happening at the revived dinner on Tuesday evening, which is to be held at the Turf Club.

CHIEF RABBI AND PALESTINE.

The Chief Rabbi and Mrs. J. H. Hertz left London on March 18 for Palestine, where, as chairman of the administrative board of the Institute of Jewish Studies, he will take an official part in the opening of the Hebrew University by the Earl of Balfour on April 1-3. Dr. Hertz will also consecrate the new University. The Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Hertz will remain in Jerusalem over Passover, returning at the end of April. He will utilise the occasion to visit the principal Jewish centres, and to deliberate with the Jerusalem Rabbinate on some religious problems affecting both Palestine and Jews throughout the world. Dr. and Mrs. Hertz will be the guests of Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel at Government House.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 26, 1925 (New Style).
March 13, 1925 (Old Style).
Ramadan 1, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Nisan 1, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Harold and Lady Snagge will return to London early in April from Egypt.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen left London yesterday for Egypt.

The Earl and Countess of Plymouth will return to England from India about the middle of April.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson will return to 41, Green Street, Park Lane, from Egypt at the beginning of April.

The Countess of Lytton, who returned to London from India last week, is staying at 7, Bruton Street, Mayfair.

The newly-appointed Afghan Minister, Shuja-ud-Dowleh, is now on his way to England, and is due to arrive in London early in April.

Moukbil Bey, the newly-appointed Counsellor to the Turkish Embassy, arrived in London last week and has taken up his duties.

The Roumanian Minister returned to London last Friday from Switzerland. Mme. Titulesco is remaining for the present in Paris.

Colonel the Hon. Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley and Miss Lawley will return to 9, Seymour Street, early in April from South America.

Captain Euan Wallace, who is accompanying the Colonial Secretary on his visit to Iraq, will not return to London until the end of April.

M. Athos Romanos, a former Greek Minister to the Court of St. James and to France, arrived in London on March 20 from the Continent.

General Munteanu, accompanied by Colonel Beroniade, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London on March 18 from Paris on aviation business.

Sir Francis Younghusband, head of the British section of delegates to the International Geographical Congress at Cairo, has left for Egypt, and will be absent several weeks.

Lady Maud Hoare, who left London last Thursday with the Secretary of State for Air, travelled as far as Egypt, where she is remaining until Sir Samuel Hoare joins her after his visit to Iraq.

Professor G. Elliot Smith, F.R.S., gave a public lecture on "Recent Anthropological Discoveries in Africa: (1) The Taungs Skull and (2) Dr. Reisner's Work in Egypt," at University College last Tuesday.

The High Commissioner for India, Sir Atul Chatterjee, and Lady Chatterjee, visited the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women at 8, Hunter Street, on March 17, and were received by Dr. Mary Scharlieb, president of the school, Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, dean, Professor Winifred Cullis, Professor Lucas Keene, and other members of the staff.

Viscount Willingdon, formerly Governor of Bombay, and later of Madras, is leaving England for Canada shortly to deliver a series of lectures on India. He will be accompanied by Viscountess Willingdon.

Mrs. H. C. Luke, wife of Mr. H. C. Luke, Colonial Secretary, Sierra Leone, and formerly Assistant Governor of Jerusalem, gave birth to a son on Saturday, March 21, at Bricket House, St. Albans.

In celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of His Majesty King Fuad I. on March 26, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, was "At Home" at Claridge's Hotel on the 25th and is giving an official dinner to-night.

Sir Samuel Hoare, the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., and Sir John Shuckburgh left London last Thursday by the Pacific and Oriental special train to join the s.s. "Razmak" at Marseilles for Port Said, thence by air to Baghdad.

Sir Montague Barlow, who has been making a tour through India, last week left Viceregal Lodge, Delhi. After visiting the Khyber and the North-West Frontier, he will return via Baghdad and Constantinople, and hopes to reach London soon after Easter.

Sir Thomas Jewell Bennett, C.I.E., Tunbridge Wells, principal proprietor and for many years editor of the "Times of India," Unionist M.P. for the Sevenoaks Division from 1918 to 1923, who died in January, aged 72 years, left estate of the gross value of £52,878, with net personalty £51,522.

The Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London, Prince Nader Mirza Arasteh, held a reception at the Legation last Saturday in celebration of the Persian New Year. In addition to members of the Diplomatic Corps there were present: Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, representatives of the Foreign Office, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Sir William G. Tyrrell, Mr. L. Oliphant, Mr. Victor Mallet, Mrs. Bowring-Hanbury, Mrs. and Miss Morris Evans, and many members of the Persian colony in London.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1925.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

It does not appear that the distinguished author of the "Declaration," any more than the British people when they sanctioned the acceptation by this country of a mandate for Palestine, the first implication of which was the setting up, in a land which they scarcely knew to belong to an Arab race, of a National Home for the folk whom they knew as the "chosen" of the Scriptures, ever entertained any doubts upon the justice or the fitness of the Zionist experiment. He believed, apparently, of the Jews, as he has stated that he believes of the Hebrew University which he is now in Palestine to open, that they are one of "the forces of progress": he has, in fact, said that the building on Mount Scopus signifies an addition to these forces which have so constantly been the object of his intellectual concentration. The Earl of Balfour at least has never swerved in his adherence to Zionist ideals, and there is something to be admired in the continued devotion to them which impels him, six and a-half years after he made such an institution possible, to betake himself to the Holy Land, there, on April 1, officially to open the flood-gates of Jewish inspiration and cultural desires. Whatever the Jews of the world as a whole may think, there is no doubt that the Zionists are, as they should be, extremely grateful for the present action of Lord Balfour. There is, however, another aspect of his visit to Palestine—an aspect which was slightly sketched by our Jerusalem Correspondent in his letter of February 28. We refer to the political effects of his presence in the Holy Land, first upon the Arabs, and, secondly, upon the tourist Jews as they watch the feelings and the attitude of these Arabs. And we do not hesitate to affirm that, however desirable, culturally, Earl Balfour's visit to Palestine may be, politically it is a profound mistake. For he has not gone to see the Holy Land, the land which belongs first to the Moslems, then to the Christians, and lastly to the Jews, but to affix his distinguished and governmental seal to the highest aspirations of a protected minority of people in that country.

There are, let us at once admit, a long view and a short view of Earl Balfour's action, and it is possible that, violently opposed as they are at the moment, in time the smaller may be merged in the bigger. But, since such a dichotomy was so easily avoidable, it is our duty here to explain what, to all appearances, Lord Balfour is now achieving. For some weeks past the Palestine Press has been full of appeals to the Arabs to boycott Lord Balfour; preparations for casting slight upon the famous author of the Declaration are in fact as complete as peaceful preparations can well be. That there will be serious trouble is, perhaps, a remote prospect, but that is not the important aspect of this matter. What really is significant is that practically all the Arabs, extremists and moderates, have come together in the common cause. The Moslem-Christian Association, or the Arab Executive, which the Administration has always chosen to take as representative of Arab opinion, is in this affair no more resolute in opposition than is the younger National Party which, with the Peasant Party, was until recent weeks one of the main hopes of the political situation. Upset, in fact, is the whole movement, which in the last year or two had been gaining notable if not wholly unexpected momentum towards Arab co-operation with the Administration. Earl Balfour's visit looks, in short, like putting back the clock of Palestinian progress by at least five years; and a return to the atmosphere of 1920 is, of course, the worst possible development from the British point of view. Nor is this all. If the Arabs but partially realise their objects in showing hostility to Earl Balfour, what, one may imagine, will be the effect upon the tourist Jews—ten thousand of them will, it is estimated, be in the Holy Land at the time of the opening of the University—who are but incompletely persuaded that the Zionist experiment can be a success? Not all the Jews who visit Palestine are Zionists, and many of them are the wealthiest and most influential of their race. Now the whole success of the Zionist "colonies" and of the "University" depends upon Jewish finances: supposing that those who have come to Palestine to give are induced by what they see of the potentialities of the Arab-Jewish situation to depart with the determination to withhold? It is possible that bathos may be the unexpected substitute of climax.

Let us, however, turn from this to the more hopeful chance. The Hebrew University is as yet one of the smallest things in Palestine's life, although the fact that several students from Britain and from the Continent have already been attracted to it, shows what it may one day become—the focus of Jewish cultural effort. Given the Balfour Declaration, a Hebrew University was, in our opinion, a most necessary and desirable corollary—we would not have it be thought that we are attacking the institution on Mount Scopus as such. It is our hope, in fact, that the school of learning may one day grow to be a corridor along which the ideas of East and West may pass, a forum where the ideas of Christianity, of Islam, and of Judaism may be expounded, compared, and perhaps, merged. At Jerusalem it was, one may recall, that Haroun er Rashid in the might of Islam inaugurated a hostel in which the upholders of Charlemagne's Christendom might be welcomed, and through which they might better pursue the particular ends of their peculiar faith. For the moment such a comparison may sound extravagant. It will, we know, be pointed out that a University supported by Zionist funds is not likely to turn itself into a *studium generale* to make the paths of others easier, and that the Jews' reputed blood relations, the Arabs, are not likely to seek admittance to Mount Scopus to become versed in the mysteries of the Talmud. This limited instruction and these narrow ends, however, may some day become broadened, and, we hope, the institution which Earl Balfour has chosen next Wednesday to open will make Britain eventually justified of her present unhandy work.

The Editorial Offices of "The Near East" have been removed from 167 to 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE AND THE MANDATE.

By ERNEST RICHMOND.

[The following article is extracted from a long essay, the preliminary part of which Mr. Richmond devoted to a comparison of the mandate for Palestine (Command Paper 1785) with the White Paper (Command 1700). His purpose is "to expose discrepancies, to refer to actual consequences, to indicate future possibilities, to suggest the cause of anomalies and their remedy." Although we do not agree with Mr. Richmond's views, we think them well worthy of attention.—Ed.]

It may be asked, "Why have the British Government acted as they have acted?" Is it because they have been persuaded that the promise contained in the Balfour Declaration and the promise made to the Sherif of Mecca are incompatible?

But are the promises incompatible? Do the pledges given to the Arabs and to the Nationalist Jews in fact conflict?

In a Palestine in which England would "recognise and support the independence" of its inhabitants, the Arabs, England could still "use her best endeavours to facilitate the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people," more especially since this only means that Great Britain would use her best endeavours to make it possible for some amongst the Jews who are scattered throughout the world to come to Palestine in order to help by their resources and efforts to develop the country to the advantage of all its inhabitants; for that is the interpretation* placed by his Majesty's Government upon the policy of the national home for the Jewish people. It is to be remembered that the Arabs, while asking for a measure of real control over their own affairs, still desire the presence in Palestine of an "assisting" Power. This they regard as necessary. Nor do they bar Jewish or any other immigration, provided that the immigrants are of suitable character, and provided that there is room for them. Moreover, they are willing that the Jews should have the same rights as themselves; that they should be regarded, when once admitted to Palestinian citizenship, as on the same footing as the rest of the inhabitants. Hence, if the people of Palestine were granted what was promised, Great Britain or any other Mandatory or "assisting" Power that might assume the burden of Palestine would not be charging her representative in Palestine with an impossible task in instructing him to give effect to the promises made to both the Arabs and the Jews. Moreover, for the fulfilment of Great Britain's promises to Jews and Arabs, it is not essential that she should maintain a direct administration of affairs in Palestine.

Since the Arabs do not object in principle to Jewish or any other immigration, or to Jewish participation in Palestinian citizenship, what is there in the Arab point of view that is out of harmony with his Majesty's Government's interpretation of the national home policy?

It will be remembered that that interpretation is that some of the Jews "should within the limits fixed by numbers and the interests of the present population, come to Palestine in order to help by their resources and efforts to develop the country."†

There is here no conflict, not even a conflict of opinion between his Majesty's Government and the Arabs.

Where does the difficulty arise? Is it in the opinion expressed by his Majesty's Government that the Jewish people are in Palestine as of right, that Jews, as Jews, have a right to make a home in Palestine?

The Arabs do not share this opinion. Palestine, in Arab eyes, is an Arab country, and Arabs support their claim by pointing to facts, such as population and language.

Here, then, we find a point of difference. It is a difference of opinion. It would not be reasonable for his Majesty's Government to expect the Arab population to agree that the Jews' ancient historic connection with Palestine now gives them the right to make their home in that country. The Arab reply to any such suggestion is to point to Spain, and to ask if their ancient historic connection with Spain would be held to justify an Arab claim to make, as of right, a home in that country.

But this difference of opinion gives no ground for offence to the Arabs, nor does it justify methods of coercion by the British Government or the League of Nations. His Majesty's Government must admit that the Arabs have a right to their own opinion. Similarly the Arabs must admit that His Majesty's Government have a right to their opinion; and, moreover, to make whatever promises they may choose to make.

It was natural that the Arabs, when they learned the views of His Majesty's Government, should have felt a little apprehensive at the prospect of their country falling under the influence of a Power ruled by a Government which, having promised to support native independence, declares that the natives were not alone possessed of the right to their own country, but shared it, and should increasingly share it, with another people.

To judge, however, by what the native Arab population knew and had heard of English sense of justice, they might well have expected that the sympathy of His Majesty's Government with Jewish aspirations would not lead them to ignore a promise made in favour of Arab independence; and that that sympathy would be manifested not at the expense of Arab independence, and rather through channels of diplomacy and moral influence than in methods of usurpation and coercion, more especially since the use of such method was obviously precluded by the promise of His Majesty's Government. Any such expectations were, however, dispelled by the text of the mandate and by the acts and composition of the administration set up in Palestine as a consequence of the mandate.

In the preamble to the mandate‡ it is said that the Principal Allied Powers have agreed that the Mandatory for Palestine shall be responsible for putting into effect the declaration of November 2, 1917, made by His Majesty's Government in favour of the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. It is also said that His Majesty's Government have accepted the mandate for Palestine, and that the degree of authority, control, or administration to be exercised by the Mandatory shall be explicitly defined by the Council of the League of Nations.

The definition of powers and responsibilities, etc., follows in a series of twenty-eight Articles.

* See White Paper, p. 6.

† See White Paper (Cmd. 1700).

‡ See Command Paper 1785, presented to Parliament in June, 1922.

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Before examining these Articles it will be well to draw attention to one or two points in the preamble.

It is to be noted that, while the promise to the Jews is referred to, no mention is made of the promise to the Sherif of Mecca. From this it may be inferred that His Majesty's Government did not inform the Allied Powers of their promise to the Sherif. Thus the League was not placed by His Majesty's Government in a position to take the promise to the Sherif into account in their task of defining the degree of authority, control, or administration which Great Britain as Mandatory could assume in Palestine consistently with that promise.

As the League had no information about this promise, the mandate has not, of course, been drafted with the object, amongst other objects, of giving effect to the promise. It is not possible that His Majesty's Government could have forgotten the existence of their promise to the Sherif. They knew it existed; but, for reasons that are not known, they did not wish it to be published. Why this secrecy? Was it because they did not wish to fulfil the promise, that far from wishing to fulfil it, and far from wishing to give independence to the Palestine Arabs. they desired the exact reverse? It would seem so, for the mandate is drafted with the object of empowering the Mandatory to assume, politically, administratively, and economically, a degree of control over the lives of the inhabitants that is inconsistent with any idea of independence either immediately or ultimately for the Arabs of Palestine.

Throughout the mandate a distinction is made between the "Mandatory" and what is called the "Administration" of Palestine. The Mandatory is given (Article 1) full powers of legislation and administration, "save as may be limited by the terms of this mandate." The limitations referred to are, presumably, those contained in Articles 9, 15, 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27, which impose on the Mandatory the duty of seeing that the Administration of Wakfs (Religious Endowments) shall be in accordance with religious law and the disposition of the founders; of ensuring freedom of conscience; of seeing that there shall be no discrimination against the nationals of any State Member of the League; of observing any general international conventions already existing or as may be concluded and approved by the League; of co-operating in any common policy that may be adopted by the League for the prevention of disease; of submitting disputes, regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of the mandate, between the Mandatory and another Member of the League, to the Court of International Justice; of making no modification in the mandate except with the consent of the Council of the League.

None of these limitations prevents the Mandatory authorities from setting up in Palestine whatever form of administration they may desire. What, then, is the nature of the administration for Palestine which, under the terms of the mandate, the Mandatory was bound to establish?

Though the mandate does not define the nature and composition of the administration contemplated by its drafters, it does define the tasks which the administration is bound to undertake, as well as, to some degree, the methods to be followed. From the description in the mandate of the tasks and methods to be undertaken and followed by the Palestine Administration, it is not difficult to form a picture of the kind of personnel into whose hands the drafters of the mandate intended that the chief authority, both administrative and legislative, should be entrusted.

It will be seen that although there is nothing to prevent the Administration as a whole containing Arab, English, and Jewish elements, yet, if the terms of the mandate are to be properly followed, it would be necessary that the final administrative and legislative authority should be in the hands either of Nationalist Jews or of Englishmen, so exclusively favourable to Jewish Nationalism as to preclude the likelihood of their being much influenced by other considerations.

It will also be seen that the kind of administration that the drafters of the mandate had in mind implied a notable departure from the methods of Government habitually adopted by Great Britain whenever she has been responsible for the guidance of a country already possessed of a clearly defined system and machinery of Government, capable under proper direction of being made to work satisfactorily, as well as expressive of methods to which the people are used and in the application of which the people have been accustomed to share. In such an event it has been customary for Great Britain to maintain the system in existence, to make the best of it, to improve its application, to modify it gradually when experience proved modification to be desirable, but never to shatter it completely, never to put in its place an entirely new system, a system strange to the people, and one that effectively excludes them from much of the administration work of their country that they had been accustomed to perform.

The evidence in support of what has just been said will be found by referring in the first place to Article 2 in the mandate. This Article lays down that it is the duty of the Mandatory to place the country under such political administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, the development of self-governing institutions, and the safeguarding of the civil and religious rights of the inhabitants of Palestine.

Note the use of the word "secure" in the phrase "secure the establishment of a Jewish national home," and compare it with the Balfour promise. The latter imposes no obligation to secure the establishment of the national home: it only commits the British Government to use their best endeavours to facilitate that object.

Articles 4, 6, 7, 11, 22, and 23 give further information on the tasks of the administration, and consequently on the character of the administration, which under the mandate the Mandatory is bound to establish.

These Articles show that the administration must be such as will co-operate with a Jewish agency in such matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home; facilitate Jewish immigration; encourage close settlement by Jews on the land, including State lands and waste lands; enact a nationality law to facilitate the acquisition of Palestinian citizenship by Jews; and also such as "may" (a curious expression) arrange with the Jewish agency for the construction of any public works, services, or utilities, and for developing the natural resources of the country.

Now the promise made to the Sherif of Mecca implies the establishment of an administration in Palestine possessing a degree of independence which is not consistent with the imposition on the administration of any such obligations as those enumerated in Articles 2, 4, 7, 11, 22, and 23; and a knowledge of the promise would have precluded the League of Nations from imposing on the Mandatory the duty of setting up an administration charged with tasks of a kind that imply a subordination so complete as to be the negation of independence. No native administration could

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accept the imposition of such obligations without abandoning their independence.

Hence it follows that the British Government must, under the terms of the mandate, set up an administration that is not native, that is foreign in composition, unrepresentative, and even coercive in character.

This is what his Majesty's Government have done. In the administration of Palestine the Nationalist Jews hold the two posts of real authority—those of High Commissioner and Attorney-General; in posts of less authority are Englishmen, and in those of little or no authority are found the natives of the country, while on the Executive Council there are only Nationalist Jews and Englishmen. The legislative body provided for by the Constitution which the Arabs rejected gave no power to the people of the country.

(To be continued.)

NEWS FROM OMAN.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following information concerning the present condition of Oman:—

The Sultan and the Council.

The Sultan has returned to Muscat after his tour in India (mentioned in THE NEAR EAST of February 5). Being dissatisfied with the Council of State, especially with his brother, Saiyid Nadir (President of the Council), he proposes to dissolve the Council and to appoint his son, Saiyid Said (a boy of sixteen years) as the new President. He has, further, communicated his resolve to Colonel Prideaux, British Resident in the Persian Gulf. Apparently, however, the English representative does not agree with the Sultan's views, disapproving of the appointment of a mere boy to the responsible position of the Presidency of the Council of State, and he has referred the problem to the Government of India.

The Taimour-Nadir Dispute.

The dispute between the Sultan, Saiyid Taimour, and his brother, Saiyid Nadir, is interesting. Saiyid Nadir, in spite of the fact that he is a jet-black negro, being the son of a negress concubine, is both talented and brave, and has had a distinguished career as a warrior. Saiyid Faisal bin Turki, his father, the late Sultan of Muscat, had much confidence in Saiyid Nadir's ability. When the revolt in Oman broke out in 1913 Nadir was chosen to lead the troops against the rebels. In fact, so proud was the late Sultan of his negro son's attainments that he so allotted him precedence as to stir envy and hatred in the heart of Saiyid Taimour.

Oman and Britain.

The area of Oman proper was 81,000 square miles, with a coast line of about 1,500 miles along the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea. Owing to the invasion of Oman by Saiyid Salim bin Rashid El-Kharoussi, the State of Oman has been considerably reduced. Almost all the interior districts have been captured by Saiyid Salim, who is now the Imam of Oman, and the Sultan now rules only the littoral districts. Saiyid Taimour asked for help from the Government of India in order to recapture these conquered parts of his Sultanate, but that Government replied that so long as the strife was internal it would preserve strict neutrality. This action was in conformity with the view laid down in an article by a correspondent in THE NEAR EAST of July 11, 1913:—"The Sultan himself seems to be helpless, almost hopeless of suppressing the revolt, and inclined to ask the British Government to interfere with a view to upholding his authority and quelling the rebellion. An experience of two and a-half years in Muscat, however, makes me doubt whether the British (or, rather, Indian) Government is likely to interfere so long as the movement is confined to the interior of the country."

It seems that this British neutrality is greatly affecting the Sultan, and he appears to wish to leave Muscat for some time.

LORD CURZON'S CAREER.

Whatever may be the ultimate verdict of History upon Lord Curzon, whose death occurred on March 20, it is certain that he was one of the Empire's foremost citizens. Most of his days were spent in her service, and the high principles that actuated him throughout his imperial career—"the eternal moralities," as he himself called them—were known far beyond even the bounds of the British Empire.

Certainly no one knew and understood better than he what British interests mean and entail in those regions with which THE NEAR EAST deals. Most of these countries, indeed, he made it his duty to know at first hand. It was in 1888 that he went along the newly made Transcaspian Railway and visited other parts of Central Asia. "Russia in Central Asia" was the fruit of this journey. During the next year he travelled for six months in Persia, "Persia and the Persian Question" being the outcome of this visit. Later he went to the Far East, China, Japan, and Korea. Then he went to India, to the Pamirs, and to Afghanistan. Reward for these travellings was found in the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1898 he was appointed, in succession to the Earl of Elgin, Viceroy and Governor-General of India; the immense work that he did for India is mentioned elsewhere in this issue. He resigned the Vicerovalty owing to an unhappy controversy with Lord Kitchener. For some years afterwards his talents were devoted for the most part to domestic affairs, but in 1919 he succeeded Mr. Balfour as Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He was twice married, and is succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Richard N. Curzon, in the earldom of Scarsdale.

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INDIA COMMAND.

It is officially announced by the War Office that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the promotion to the rank of Field-Marshal of General Sir William R. Birdwood, Bt., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, Colonel 12th Lancers.

The India Office announces that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Field-Marshal Sir William Riddell Birdwood to be Commander-in-Chief in India, in succession to General Lord Rawlinson, whose tenure of the appointment expires in November next.

The new C.I.C., who was appointed to the Northern Command in India in 1920, commanded the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War, gained distinction in the Gallipoli campaign, commanded the Dardanelles Army at the evacuation, and was wounded during the later stages of the War in France. Sir William, who is in his sixtieth year, had been military secretary to Lord Kitchener in South Africa and in India.

THE ŒCUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE.

On March 17, at University College, the Anglo-Hellenic League held a meeting to consider "The Present Danger to the Œcumenical Patriarchate." The Bishop of London presided. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a message to the chairman, stated that the Church of England ought to use all its influence "to avert the disaster of the Œcumenical Patriarchate's losing its status, its dignity, and its opportunity of exercising Christian influence among those nationalities of Eastern Europe over which its jurisdiction, formal or informal, has been exercised for some sixteen centuries." The Bishop of London protested against the misuse of the word "political" in connection with the Patriarchate. Between 1453 and 1918 there was not a single instance of political intervention. Canon J. A. Douglas, the Metropolitan of Thyateira, and M. J. Gennadius also spoke.

THE SUDAN FORCE.

Good progress is being made in the organisation of the Sudan Defence Force, and a number of officers continue to be gazetted to it. The total of the commissioned ranks employed in Egypt and the Sudan is nearly 1,000, and the British units have a personnel of 16,000. This is an increase of nearly 2,000, and is made up by the inclusion of two additional battalions. The 9th Lancers, headquartered in Palestine, are to join the Cavalry Brigade at Cairo, and the 12th Lancers also join in relief of regiments now there, but these movements are not immediate.

DANUBE GUNBOAT'S CRUISE.

A modification has been made in the cruise down the Danube of the river gunboat "Glowworm," Captain Douglas Le Mottee, after wintering at Komoron. The vessel was due on March 23 at Turnu Severin and at Galatz on March 25. Captain Le Mottee was appointed Senior Officer of the Danube Flotilla in September, 1923.

The estimates for the Foreign and Colonial Services for the year 1925-26, which were issued on March 18, show a net decrease of £1,475,208. The total for the current year was £9,142,648, and the estimate for next year is £7,667,440. The main items in which decreases have taken place are Overseas Settlement and the Middle East Services. In the former case the estimate of £497,925 is £388,075 lower, and in the latter the estimate of £4,770,000 shows a decrease of £949,010.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A concert and reception for members and their friends will be held on Wednesday evening, April 1, at a quarter to nine o'clock, at 64, Queen's Gate, S.W., by kind permission of the Dowager Lady Boyle, who will be the hostess of the evening. Signor Rangoni, the Italian tenor, Senor Brosa, the Spanish violinist, and Idina Scott-Gatty will perform.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, 7, St. James's Terrace, N.W.8. Telephone, Hampstead 5297.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

President Coolidge has appointed, and the Senate has confirmed, Mr. Peter A. Jay, now Minister in Roumania, to be Ambassador in Argentina.

The King has been pleased to make the following appointments to the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras:—

Mr. Norman Edward Marjoribanks, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., in the vacancy caused by the appointment of Sir Muhammad Habibullah to the Executive Council of the Governor-General.

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur, in succession to Sir Arthur Rowland Knapp, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., who is retiring from March 31, 1925.

The King has given Mr. David Henderson and Mr. Percy Ball authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on them by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them as officials of the Sudan Government.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Cyprus at Wembley.

It is good hearing that Cyprus is to have new quarters at Wembley this year. It was much overshadowed by Palestine last time in the small pavilion which was shared jointly by the two countries, and of which by far the greater part was occupied by Palestine. The Cyprus exhibits plainly indicated that the island is capable of making quite a good show by itself, and with larger space available I shall look forward to seeing the island's products set forth to much greater advantage.

Indian Bank Results.

The Indian bank reports, which are now forthcoming, show that the profits are about on a level with those of the previous year. The profits of the Chartered Bank of India are slightly lower at £770,716, as against £782,707, while those of the National Bank of India show a trifling increase at £535,925, as against £534,799. The dividends of these banks are maintained at the previous figures.

Turkey To-day.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found a report of the annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, at which speeches of special interest were delivered by the Chairman of the Council of the Chamber and the British Ambassador to Turkey. In the last twelve months we have heard far too much of an unsatisfactory nature with regard to Turkey; in the speeches at this meeting there will be found a glimpse of the other side—of a Turkey where foreign enterprise is not impossible, and where there is a growing realisation of realities which is going in the near future to facilitate co-operation on the part of Great Britain and other countries. The Chairman, Mr. Middleton Edwards, pointed out that the past year was the first complete year without the protection of the Capitulations. The annual report of the Council's work was not a record of troubles arising out of their abolition, and what better evidence could there be of the false prophecies of those who so emphatically stated that trading and life in the country would be impossible without the enjoyment of those ancient rights. He further emphasised the point that the important political events of 1924 had relatively little effect on the business life of British traders, all of which is most encouraging.

Acute Nationalism.

Sir Ronald Lindsay commented on the acute form of nationalism that has developed in Turkey, which, as he says, has been carried to exaggerated lengths. But he was able to say that during the past year the extreme suspicion with regard to foreigners has diminished. "A small beginning of mutual confidence between Turkey and Europe," he added, "is beginning to appear, and I earnestly hope that it may be fostered, for until it is established on a reasonably firm basis it is impossible for Turkey to ask or for Europe to give out of her vast resources any important or efficacious help in the work of reconstruction which is so urgently necessary." What Turkey must realise is that the hope of Great Britain is that the country will progress on peaceful lines. Commercial relations between the two countries have always been particularly intimate. It rests with Turkey as to whether they are to develop in the future as they have done in the past.

Trade Conditions in India.

The meeting of the Eastern Bank was notable for a very interesting review of trade conditions in India by Mr. J. S. Haskell, the chairman. He pointed out that there is still an absence of expansion in industry, and no noticeable increase in the consumption of manufactured goods by the people. In the face of India's large favourable balance of trade, amounting last year to £95,000,000, it is, as he said, remarkable that the import trade has not responded in a commensurate degree. An arresting factor, he suggested, was to be found in the high prices ruling for goods. "It is evident," he added, "that before we can see any great activity prices must be reduced all round to come within the means of the masses, who cannot afford to pay to-day, taking Manchester goods as an instance, about 125 per cent. more than the pre-War level. It was hoped that the considerable drop in raw cotton during the year by 35 per cent. would ameliorate the situation to a certain extent, but the actual result has proved very disappointing."

The Iraq Market.

Turning to Iraq, Mr. Haskell said that trade conditions had been very slack during the period, and the imports of piece-goods showed some reduction. This is mainly attributed to the high prices ruling in Manchester. Further, he pointed out that there have been some difficulties about the transport of goods to Persia, thus causing congestion, and he expressed the hope that this trouble would be adjusted to the benefit of the trade of both countries.

The Viceroy's Return on the "Razmak."

It is interesting to note that the Viceroy is returning to England by the new P. and O. liner "Razmak," details of which were given in these columns recently. After this voyage the liner is to be transferred to the Aden-Bombay service.

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The Bondholders' Report.

The report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders for 1924, which has just been issued, covers a period notable for a slow but steady improvement in the general economic conditions. Apart, however, from the statement that Serbia has continued to pay the current coupons on the External Loan of Montenegro, there is nothing in the introduction of an encouraging character with regard to the Near East. We give the following extracts from the report :—

Bulgaria.

The arrangement made in 1921 for the payment of the service of the External Loans for three years in French francs came to an end in April, 1924. Early in the year the Bulgarian Government opened negotiations for a new arrangement and sent commissioners to London to treat with the Council, and an agreement was arrived at for the payment of all the loans, without distinction, for a further period of three years at the rate of 33 per cent. in sterling or Dutch florins. These terms, however, were not accepted by the committees representing the French and Dutch holders, who claimed that the loans which enjoyed special securities should receive more favoured treatment than those which had inferior or no special guarantees. A scale of payments was proposed which the Bondholders' Committee associated with the Council were not able to accept, and they called on the Bulgarian Government to carry out the agreement made with them. The Government, however, declined to do anything until the three Committees were agreed, all payments having meanwhile been suspended. In November, 1924, a Conference of the three Committees was held in London, when a unanimous understanding was arrived at, and the Bulgarian Government was at once informed of the result, but up to the end of February, 1925, the Government had not agreed to the terms proposed.

Egypt.

In July, 1924. the Government of Egypt suspended payments on account of the service of the Loans of 1855, 1891, and 1894, secured on the tribute payable by Egypt to Turkey. These loans represent obligations incurred by Turkey while Egypt formed part of the Ottoman Empire, and at the time of the issue of the 1891 and 1894 Loans Khedivial Decrees were promulgated providing that the amount payable by Egypt as tribute to Turkey should be remitted direct to the agents of the loans in London until the bonds were entirely paid off.

In 1914 Egypt was made independent of Turkey, but the service of the loans was duly maintained. In 1922 Egypt was constituted an independent State, subject to certain reservations with regard to the protection of foreign interests, etc. Under the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923 Turkey was released from all undertakings and obligations in regard to Ottoman Loans guaranteed on the Egyptian Tribute, as the annual payments made by Egypt for the service of these loans now forms part of the service of the Egyptian Public Debt.

The Egyptian Government maintain that, as they are relieved from any further responsibility for the payment of the tribute to Turkey, their obligation to pay the same to the bondholders is at an end, notwithstanding their unconditional undertaking to apply it to the service of the loans until their complete extinction.

Meantime, the Government have ordered the amount payable to be deposited in the National Bank of Egypt, and have suggested reference to the International Court of Justice at the Hague. As the question at issue is a financial one between the Egyptian Government and the bondholders, reference to a Tribunal which is concerned with the settlement of international disputes seems to the Council unsuitable and unnecessary. A committee, on which the Council is represented, has been formed by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons to look after the bondholders' interests.

Greece.

In December, 1924, a new loan of £12,300,000 was issued by Greece in accordance with the plan approved by the League of Nations for the repatriation and settlement of Greek refugees from Turkey. The loan is amply secured, and its service is under the control of the International Financial Commission.

The total gross receipts in 1923 applicable to the service of the old gold loans amounted to 733,967,760 dr. and £42,967, against 327,924,510 dr. in 1922, the sums derived from the Monopolies and the Stamp and Tobacco Duties, from which the plus-values are derived, being 98,609,890 dr. and 74,689,418 dr. respectively.

With the addition of the portion of the revenue from the tobacco duties which is not applicable to the old gold loans (viz., 9,554,874 dr.), together with the customs receipts of the ports of Corfu, Patras, Laurium, and Volo (viz., 69,429,838 dr. and £13,922), which constitute an additional contingent security of the old gold loans, and those of the ports of Salonika and Kavalla (viz., 157,263,218 dr. and £47,343), on which the Five per Cent. Loan of 1914 has a first charge, the total gross receipts of the year 1923 amounted to 970,215,690 dr. and £104,232, against 462,541,543 dr. in 1922.

Including (*a*) a sum of 4,000,000 dr. granted by the Greek Government in consideration of the prejudicial effect of issues of paper; (*b*) balances from the previous year; and (*c*) the interest saved on bonds redeemed from 1898 to 1923, the net amount available for increase of interest and sinking fund in 1924 was 12,761,046 francs, against 12,687,383 francs in the previous year. Out of this sum, as anticipated in the Council's last report, the distribution in 1924 on account of increased interest was 42 per cent. of the original interest to each of the three groups, and 20 per cent. to the first and second, and 18 per cent. to the third groups on account of increase of sinking fund.

In 1924 the gross receipts for the service of the old gold loans were 1,075,659,620 dr. and £6,217, and the proportion applicable to the plus-values was 110,604,205 dr. With the additional receipts from the Monopolies and other sources, the total gross receipts in 1924 were 1,459,207,717 dr. and £19,547.

The various amounts in pounds given above consist of duties paid, at the choice of the importer, in sterling at the exchange on London.

The sums available from 1924 should permit of the payment in 1925 of 54 per cent. of the original interest to each of the three groups for additional interest, and of 28 per cent. to the first and third, and 26 per cent. to the second group for additional

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sinking fund. The prospects of an increase in the receipts during 1925 are favourable.

In their report for 1923 attention was called by the International Financial Commission to the action of the Greek Government in issuing notes early in that year without the consent of the Commission. It is satisfactory to note that the Government have, as mentioned above, paid 4,000,000 dr. as an offset to the prejudice suffered by the bondholders from the injurious effect on exchange of the issues authorised in 1920 and 1921, and no further note issue has been attempted.

Turkey.

The Treaty of Lausanne was duly ratified by the Allied Powers, and came into operation on August 6, 1924. The first step to be taken in accordance with its provisions was for the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt to submit, within three months of ratification, a statement showing the proportions of the pre-war Debt to be respectively assumed by Turkey and by the States which had acquired portions of Turkish territory. This statement was published in November, and may be briefly summarised as follows :—

(1) Debts contracted prior to October 17, 1912. —Turkey, 62.13 per cent.; Greece, 10.49 per cent.; Syria, 8.33 per cent.; Yugoslavia, 5.23 per cent.; Iraq, 3.95 per cent. Palestine, 2.45 per cent.; Transjordania, 0.65 per cent.; other countries, 6.77 per cent.

(2) Debts contracted between the above date and November 1, 1914.—Turkey, 76.35 per cent.; Greece, 0.54 per cent.; Syria, 10.23 per cent.; Iraq, 4.85 per cent.; Palestine, 3.02 per cent.; Transjordania, 0.79 per cent.; other countries, 4.22 per cent.

(3) Yearly contributions to be paid in respect of both these classes :—Turkey, £T6,459,647; Greece, £T648,126; Syria, £T865,742; Yugoslavia, £T313,633; Iraq, £T410,446; Palestine, £T255,644; Transjordania, £T67,139: other countries, £T555,378.

The States concerned were duly notified by the Debt Council of the percentages allotted to them. Under the Treaty, however, any State which did not accept the Debt Council's statement had the right to appeal to an arbitrator, appointed by the Council of the League of Nations, whose decision is to be final, and is to be given within three months. In December last, Turkey, Iraq, Palestine, Transjordania, Syria, Greece, and Bulgaria gave notice of appeal, and Professor Borel, President of the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal established under the Treaty of Versailles, was appointed the arbitrator.

The Treaty also provides that, within a month of the final determination of the proportional annuities, a Commission is to meet in Paris to determine the method of carrying out the distribution of the nominal capital of the old debt.

At the end of 1924 the Government unofficially submitted a proposal for settlement of the pre-war debt which was of a very unsatisfactory and inadequate nature. It was suggested that payments should be made either in French francs or by a fixed annuity in Turkish paper pounds, which would apparently give the bondholders less than one-fourth of the amount due to them. The security suggested was the Customs revenue, tobacco or some other monopoly, the proceeds to be paid into a bank, and not directly to the Debt Council, which would only have the right of distribution, and not of administration. The Turkish Government was informed that such a proposal could not be considered.

Meanwhile, as above stated, the Government, in spite of frequent assurances of its intention to respect its obligations, has laid hands on all the securities pledged to the bondholders. In the case of the Tobacco Régie, the Government took over all the stocks and machinery of the company, but, instead of the profit once shown, there has been a heavy loss during the two and a-half years of Government administration, and the Government has now announced its intention to abolish the Régie altogether. The once flourishing silk industry, which was recreated and so successfully fostered by the Debt Council, appears to be leaving Turkey to a considerable extent, and the same appears to be the case with the carpet industry. In striking contrast with the crowded Piræus, the port of Constantinople is comparatively deserted. Trade is stagnant throughout the country, and the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Armenians has adversely affected commerce, industry, and agriculture.

It would be thought that the extraordinarily favourable reception of the new Greek Loan would give the Turkish Government cause for serious reflection, and it is incredible that enlightened people in Turkey can seriously believe that their country can make progress so long as it remains without credit and the money markets of the world are closed to Turkish borrowings. The Council are sure that if the Turkish Government manifests the intention to respect its obligations, it will find the bondholders prepared to make all reasonable allowances for the difficulties with which it is at present confronted.

As mentioned in the Council's previous reports, the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, which, after the departure from Constantinople of the French, Italian, and British members following the outbreak of the war, consisted of German, Austrian, and Turkish delegates only, deposited in certain German and Austrian banks the funds in their hands, amounting to some £7,500,000, collected on account of the service of the Unified Debt and the Lots Turcs. The representatives of the Allied Bondholders, after the restoration of peace, determined to take action before the Mixed Arbitral Tribunals set up by the Treaty of Versailles for the recovery of the moneys at the pre-war rate of exchange. After prolonged delays the case of the French holders came on for hearing before the Franco-German Arbitral Tribunal in Paris in June, 1924, and the Tribunal's decision, as rendered in November, was adverse to the bondholders on all points. The judgment is mainly based on the grounds that the transfer of funds was a transaction effected by the Debt Council in temporary employment of revenues authorised by the Decree of Mouharrem pending distribution thereof; that the legal right to repayment from the German banks was vested in that Council alone, and not in the bondholders; that the Debt Council, not being a subject of, or domiciled in territory of any of the Allied Powers, is not a claimant within the meaning of the Treaty of Versailles, and that the bondholders themselves have no *locus standi* to prosecute before the Tri-

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bunal a claim to money which, in the legal sense, was vested in the Debt Council alone.

Whilst the Council do not for a moment question the impartiality of the Tribunal, it seems to them that the equities of the case have been lost sight of in a maze of legal technicalities, and the fact remains that a large sum of money belonging to Allied holders of Unified Bonds has passed into German hands. Moreover, during the war German holders of the bonds were able to encash their coupons, whilst Allied holders were not permitted to do so. In these circumstances it seems to the Council that it would be useless to proceed with the British case before the Anglo-German Tribunal.

As regards the revenues collected in Palestine and Iraq prior to March, 1920, belonging to British holders, which were appropriated by the British Government after their occupation of these territories, there can be no question that these revenues are the property of the bondholders, that their confiscation is forbidden by The Hague Convention, and that in the past the British Government have consistently opposed any interference with them in the case of occupation of Turkish territories by other Powers. Steps have been taken, under the advice of counsel, to protect the rights of the bondholders in the matter.

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. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisements.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 4).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Masula for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 28); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canterbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 28); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, April 3); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 4).

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INDIA'S GROWING TRADE.

The trade returns of British India for the month of January showed, as compared with the preceding month, increases in the values of imports and exports, with a decrease in re-exports. The imports of private merchandise totalled Rs.24,34 lakhs, and showed an increase of Rs.7,12 lakhs, as compared with the preceding month. The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures rose from Rs.34,91 lakhs in December to Rs.39,04 lakhs, while re-exports decreased by Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1,07 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise and treasure, the visible balance of trade was in favour of India to the extent of Rs.5,86 lakhs in January, as compared with Rs.14,83 lakhs in December and Rs.10,87 lakhs a year ago. During the ten months ended January the visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure was Rs.42,29 lakhs in favour of India, as compared with Rs.63,30 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The balance of the remittances of funds in January, 1925, was minus Rs.2,72 lakhs.

MOTOR LORRIES FOR INDIA.

The latest consignment of motors for India, consisting of nineteen motor-lorries, forms part of a shipment to Bombay by the Anchor liner Castalia, leaving Liverpool this week. The lorries are intended for the Indian Government, and will go through to Karachi. Fitted with tractor wheels, they will be used for the transport of Government stores across rough and hilly country to outlying stations and outposts inaccessible by railway.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Chartered Bank of India.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China for the year ended December 31 last states that there is a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £993,123 11s. 8d., inclusive of £222,407 15s. 6d. brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £210,000. The amount now available is therefore £783,123 11s. 8d., and the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, making 20¼ per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of income-tax; to add £100,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £4,000,000; to add £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund; to write off premises account £50,000, and to carry forward the balance of £210,623 11s. 8d. The meeting will be held at 38, Bishopsgate on April 1 at 2 p.m.

NEW COMPANY.

British Black Sea Textiles.

British Black Sea Textiles, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £22,500, in £1 shares. The objects are to acquire the business, property, and assets of the British Black Sea Company carried on in Manchester, at Stamboul, Constantinople; at Milan, Italy, and elsewhere in Europe; merchants, etc. The subscribers (one share each) are:—C. A. Buckley, 2, Booth Street, Manchester, solicitor; and J. F. S. Buckley, 2, Booth Street, Manchester, law student. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors, who shall be permanent. Any director resident outside England, and holding 1,000 shares, is to have the right to nominate a person resident in England to be a director.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF BRITISH CHAMBER AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Present Conditions in Turkey.

At the annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, held at Constantinople on March 5, the chair was taken by Sir Ronald C. Lindsay, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., H.M. Ambassador to Turkey.

Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards, the Chairman of the Council, in his address to the Chamber, said :—

The past year has been one of transition. The Treaty of Lausanne has been finally ratified, and all trading communities know exactly where they stand in relation to one another. The wheels of all Governments move slowly; there are therefore some provisions of the Treaty that still await application; but steps are being taken to put these into operation, so that in the course of time traders will know how they should act under the new conditions.

In looking back over the past year we do so over the first complete year without the protection of the Capitulations. The annual report of the work of the Council is not a record of troubles arising out of their abolition, and what better evidence can there be of the false prophecies of those who so emphatically stated that trading and life in this country would be impossible without the enjoyment of those ancient rights. Everybody objects to paying taxes, but they are a necessary evil. Provided there is no discrimination in favour of the Turk, and no case of such discrimination has come to the notice of your Council, the trader wishing to carry on his business in this country has no reason to complain.

Political life, business life, and private life are very closely interwoven under modern conditions. This Chamber is particularly debarred by its statutes from discussing political questions, and it is not my intention to do so. It is impossible, however, to contemplate the tremendously important and far-reaching political events of 1924 in Turkey without being struck by the relatively little effect these have had on the business life of the British traders in this country, and how these changes have affected his private life not at all.

One of the first efforts towards trade development undertaken in 1923 was the creation of a Turkish merchant fleet. The attempts have been crowned with only partial success, owing to inexperience and the belief that the carrying trade was much larger than it has actually proved to be. When in the course of time the weaker elements die, a sound and profitable merchant marine under Turkish management will be the result. Excess in everything is a mistake. Until the conviction has proved by experience to be false that every form of business in which others have been employed for years is a gold mine, no matter by whom undertaken, we must expect that many business ventures will be entered into of which only the well-managed ones will survive the inevitable period of experiment. It is for us, a nation of traders and manufacturers, with centuries of experience behind us, with the instinct of trade in our blood, to lend a helping hand whenever opportunity presents itself, and never to withhold that help when asked for.

The greatest industry in the world and the greatest in Turkey is that of agriculture. It is very sincerely hoped that the people and Government of this country will concentrate their strongest efforts on its development. It is an industry for which by nature the Turk is pre-eminently fitted, and it should therefore receive special encouragement. It is very satisfactory to be able to say that the Government has not lost sight of this, and that it is making great efforts in the right direction.

The reports published in the Press and circulated in the early summer about the large grain crops proved to be wrong. Asia Minor, which at one time was the granary of the Eastern Mediterranean, has for some years now actually imported grain. We look forward to the time, which we hope will not be very far distant, when the old conditions will obtain, and wheat, maize, and barley be again included among the regular exports of this country.

Turkey enjoys a wide variety of crops that are turned into money quickly after harvesting. Fruits, cotton, nuts, seeds, tobacco, mohair, opium are only some of the more important ones. All can be increased and improved. Special efforts are being made to increase the cotton crop, and with the help of agricultural machinery and expert guidance, these efforts will in the end surely be crowned with success. One of the most encouraging features in this regard is the support the Government is giving to the farmers.

The Customs Administration has quite recently issued statistics covering Turkey's trade for the year 1923. They are more complete than any ever published by the Department. Statistics such as these are useful, but their value would be much enhanced if they were not so old. It is expected, however, that the statistics for last year will not be very long delayed, and that in the future returns will be available shortly after the end of each year.

According to the report, Italy heads the list with a total trade of £T43,550,000, with Great Britain following closely with £T40,750,000; then comes France with £T23,730,000, and America with £T17,800,000. On looking down the table, however, it is to be remarked that little trade with Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia is recorded. The bulk of the trade with these countries would go through Trieste and Fiume, and is therefore quite probably classified as Italian. If, therefore, this trade were deducted from that shown to be Italian the total ascribed to that country would suffer a very important reduction.

We must, however, not lose sight of the fact that certain qualities of cotton piece goods formally supplied by Manchester are now coming from Italy. Quality, finish, and design are being successfully imitated at lower prices than Manchester is now quoting. All we can do in the matter is to record the fact, which surely importers have reported to their previous suppliers. It is for Manchester manufacturers to find the means of recapturing the trade they have lost. From the Board of Trade returns we can deduce that Manchester is supplying more of other qualities, for the export to Turkey in 1924 of cotton piece goods was 89 million square yards, against 85 million square yards in 1923.

A comparison between 1913 and 1924 shows the imports from the United Kingdom to have been £7,705,900 in 1913 and £10,404,300 in 1924. In both cases the lost provinces of Syria, Palestine, and Iraq are included. While values show an increase, volume shows a decrease; for, taking the index figure of the Board of Trade of 166 as a basis of comparison, the trade of £7,705,900 should be in 1924 £12,791,700, against the actual result of £10,404,300. While imports from the United Kingdom to the lost provinces of Turkey already mentioned show a decline each year since 1922,

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the export from those provinces to the United Kingdom show considerable increases.

Before sitting down, may I quote from a letter I received not long ago from a gentleman to whom I had written congratulating him on an appointment? After referring to our possible difficulties owing to the abolition of the Capitulations, he says: "But I have too much faith in the Britisher abroad not to be convinced that he will rise superior to all his difficulties, and in the latter end profit both himself, his own country, and the land of his adoption." It may be considered out of place for me to enlarge on the appreciation of British characteristics referred to in this quotation, but it is strongly true. The British trader in this country, in no way less than in any other, by the work of his hands and brains profits himself, his own country, and the land of his adoption. It is this last fact that I want specially to emphasise in closing my remarks to-day.

Sir Ronald Lindsay then addressed the meeting. He said:—

When I speak of the local conditions in which you work here I do so with the utmost diffidence, because I am sure that you know far more about them than I possibly can. When I came here a year ago I thought I had never in all my experience witnessed a form of nationalism so acute as that prevalent in Turkey. Nor was this to be wondered at, for in no country had foreign, alien, or international interests acquired a greater position of influence and privilege than they had in Turkey. Even last year all this had gone by the board, and Turkey had substantially reached her ideal—namely, the government of Turkey by the Turks. With this ideal in itself I think none of us are disposed to quarrel, for, after all, we guard it jealously enough in our own country; but perhaps we may be justified in thinking that it was carried to exaggerated lengths in Turkey, and so far as trade, commerce, and the professions are concerned, it has taken the form of almost unbounded Protection, taken in the widest sense of the word. We English, who have had Free Trade—also in its widest sense—for nearly eighty years, may be excused for holding the opinion that Protection means in the long run impoverishment of the people that adopts it, though at the same time we do not blame those who think otherwise. In Turkey, however, the theory has been carried to extreme lengths. I do not refer to the mere imposition of high import duties, the simple feature of Protection with which all of you who are importers are familiar, nor to the mere protection of struggling interests in the country which may require help. Things go further than that; the Turkish Government hopes that whole series of trades, professions, and industries which have either never existed in Turkey, or have hitherto only been carried on by foreigners, shall in future be reserved for Turks alone, and they believe that this can be accomplished.

In all of this there is much exaggeration, and it may well make us feel uncomfortable. On the one hand, Turks, seeing that foreigners prospered in the past in certain vocations, think that their prosperity was due entirely to their privilege, and that with the removal of the privilege Turks can entirely replace the foreigners. On the other hand, they under-estimate the years—I may almost say generations—of training which it has taken foreign races to attain their present degree of industrial, commercial, or professional efficiency. Perhaps I may not be blamed for reverting to the typically English view of Protection which I mentioned just now, and suggesting that such a line of policy as I am referring to may lead to impoverishment, if not material, yet intellectual and cultural.

To all this there is, of course, also the political side. Just as to some Europeans it has been difficult to say good-bye to the Capitulations, so for the Turks it has been difficult to realise that they really have been abolished, and I think they have often been inclined to suspect that if a foreigner or a foreign Power desired something, really in itself quite innocent, to go on as it used to before the War, there was an effort being made to re-establish the old system of privilege. I do not know if your observation will coincide with my own, but it does seem to me that in the past year some progress has been made in this respect. All the Powers of Europe—though after long delay—have ratified their Treaties, and the new order of things is now established in law as it has been in fact, and it seems to me that whether it is due to this action, or to the mere lapse of time, the political acerbity and the extreme sensitiveness and suspiciousness of the Turks towards foreigners is diminishing. They are beginning to learn that some things are indeed as simple and straightforward as they seem, and that it is not necessary to seek a trap in every proposal that is made. A small beginning of mutual confidence between Turkey and Europe is beginning to appear, and I earnestly hope that it may be fostered, for until it is established on a reasonably firm basis it is impossible for Turkey to ask or for Europe to give out of her vast resources any important or efficacious help in the work of reconstruction which is so urgently necessary.

I imagine that everyone present at this meeting has his stake in Turkey, either in trade or in some other occupation, and that every one of you, if only from self-interest, is anxious to see Turkey develop into a stable, prosperous, and progressive State. I can assure you that in this respect your own views coincide entirely with the political desires of the British Government, which is only anxious that Turkey shall be strong and self-reliant, marching calmly along on the road of progress. Anything that diverts her, even temporarily, from that path is to be deplored from the point of view of British interests. It is my own personal wish to develop as far as I can friendship between Turkey and England, and my desire to see Turkey become so powerful that her friendship shall be a valuable asset even to the greatest States in the world.

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The fifth Liubliana Sample Fair is to be held from August 28 to September 9 next.

Owing to the maintenance of orders from abroad and satisfactory output in the factories, Czecho-Slovak oilcloth manufacturers have agreed to declare a reduction of 6 per cent. in the price of their manufactures.

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Company Meetings.

EASTERN BANK.

The Development of Iraq.

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., was held on March 20, at the office of the bank, 2 and 3, Crosby Square, E.C. Mr. J. S. Haskell (the Chairman) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. Carter) 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:—The net profits for the year, as you will have seen from the report, are £122,051 14s. 3d. Considering that the long-hoped-for revival in trade has not materialised, especially in respect of exports from this country—a business in which we are largely concerned—and the difficulties relating to exchange, a subject on which I will venture to make a few remarks later, it is not without some feeling of satisfaction that I am able to say that our profits have been maintained and in consequence we have been enabled to recommend the same dividend and to transfer the same amounts to reserve and to premises accounts as last year.

In October last an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, was paid, 1s. 9.573d. per share being added for Indian income-tax relief recovered. We now ask you to sanction a final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax at the rate of 2s. 8.4d. after allowing for Indian relief, making 9 per cent. gross for the year, adding £20,000 to the reserve and £10,000 to the premises account, and leaving £35,400 4s. 1d. to be carried forward to the new account, an increase in this last item of £2,051 14s. 3d.

The Indian Market.

Trade conditions in India cannot be said to have been very active, notwithstanding that there has been again a marked increase in the exports, running into big figures, owing to another good monsoon and the high prices prevailing for produce. There is still an absence of expansion in industry and no noticeable increase in consumption of manufactured goods by the people. The net balance of trade in favour of India for the year, taking produce and merchandise only, amounted to £95,000,000 in round figures, an increase of £27,000,000 on the previous year.

In the face of these figures it is remarkable that the import trade has not responded to a commensurate degree. The high prices ruling for goods generally are, no doubt, an arresting factor. Even the local mills find some difficulty in disposing of their production profitably; stocks are accumulating and short-time working is being contemplated. Though the imports of Manchester goods show an improvement, the off-take has of late been very slow, and stocks are remaining uncleared. It is evident that before we can see any great activity prices must be reduced all round to come within the means of the masses, who cannot afford to pay to-day, taking Manchester goods as an instance, about 125 per cent. more than the pre-war level. It was hoped that the considerable drop in raw cotton during the year by 35 per cent. would ameliorate the situation to a certain extent, but the actual result has proved very disappointing. Cotton goods cannot be purchased any cheaper and shippers have to pay almost identically the same prices as in 1923.

An Anomalous Situation.

This is a somewhat anomalous situation, but from what can be gathered, it appears that in 1922-23 spinners and manufacturers, in order to keep their mills open, elected to accept prices at less than cost, and a considerable amount of business was booked at non-paying levels. In order to make up for these losses producers towards the end of 1923 decided, in spite of the decline in the price of cotton, not to reduce their selling prices, and they have continued to work on these lines. I will not presume to advise those concerned in the industry as to the conduct of their business, but perhaps I may be permitted to state my belief that, if they can see their way to make adequate concessions in the finished goods, the lower prices will undoubtedly stimulate trade and keep it alive.

If India does not utilise her trade surplus in the purchase of commodities, it must lead to further purchases of precious metals. During 1924 the imports of gold amounted to £30,000,000, an increase of £5,000,000 on the year, while silver reached £13,000,000, which was more or less the figure of the previous year. The laying-down price of gold in Indian currency is about Rs.2 per tola, or 9 per cent. lower than the pre-war price, and this is not a little inducement for the bazaars to continue to absorb the metal in large quantities in preference to the purchase of commodities at much higher relative levels.

In Iraq there has not been anything of special importance in the political situation, which remains quiet, and the country may be said to be proceeding steadily along the lines of development. In the meantime, under the able administration of its Finance Minister, Sir Sassoon Eskell, the budget is being stabilised, and this is an indication of progress. A scheme of irrigation with a view to cotton cultivation on a large scale is under way. Trade conditions, however, have been very slack during the period under review, and the imports of piece-goods show some reduction on the previous year. This may, no doubt, be attributed principally to the high prices ruling in Manchester, which militate against a revival of demand. There have also been some difficulties about the transport of goods to Persia, thus causing congestion, but it is hoped this trouble may be adjusted to the benefit of the trade of both countries. An event of some significance, which may lead to the renewal of cordial relations between the two countries, was the pilgrimage to the Shiah Holy Places at Kerbela and Nejep. The Prime Minister of Persia has been on a visit to Iraq, proceeding by way of Khanikin, the Persian frontier, and this is looked upon as the forerunner of a general resumption of the ordinary traffic between Persia and Iraq. Owing to political reasons this traffic has been interrupted for some years, to the detriment of trade.

The question of Mosul, which has loomed so largely of late, is now in the hands of the League of Nations, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory arrangement may be come to during the course of this year. With the removal of this disturbing factor, we may look for a more settled condition of affairs in that region.

The Gold Standard.

I should like to make a brief reference to the question of the gold standard, which has been much debated of late. We have heard the views of the respective chairmen of the clearing banks as well as of other distinguished economists, but, although it is agreed that in the main it is highly desirable for this country to re-establish her position as the chief upholder of a sound currency, there has been no decided consensus of opinion that steps towards this end can be safely undertaken immediately. I do not wish to weary you with the pros and cons of this interesting question, as you are, no doubt, familiar with them, but I should like to state my conviction that great caution should be exercised so that we do not travel too rapidly in the direction of removing the embargo on gold exports. If a decision at the present juncture should result in a further advance in the Bank rate, the result will be deplorable, as it would heavily penalise trade and retard the long-looked-for revival which still appears rather shy in presenting itself.

I for one, whilst entirely in favour of a return to the gold standard, think it would be preferable to mark time until we can be more sure of our ground. The recent rise in the Bank rate, apart from its detrimental effect on trade and industry, will, I am afraid, jeopardise the chances of any reduction in taxation which the country is eagerly looking for, since the Chancellor of the Exchequer is faced with the necessity of providing nearly £8,000,000 more for the service of the floating debt for the ensuing financial year.

In conclusion, I wish to express the appreciation and thanks of the board to Mr. Sutton for his zeal and devotion to the interests of the bank, and our thanks are also due to the managers and staff at home and abroad for their loyal co-operation.

I beg to move:—"That the report and accounts be adopted and that a final dividend of 5s. a share, less income-tax at 2s. 8.4d. in the £, after allowing for relief in respect of Indian taxation, be paid on March 30 to the members who are on the register on that date, out of the net profits of the bank for the year ending December 31, 1924."

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Sir James Leigh-Wood, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (deputy-chairman), seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, the auditors were reappointed, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman and the other directors, and the managers and staff, which was briefly acknowledged by the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position in Egypt and the Sudan.

The twenty-fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on March 19 at the head office of the bank in Cairo. Mr. B. Hornsby, C.B.E. (the Governor), presided.

The Governor said:—Gentlemen,—From the profit and loss account which we have the honour to submit to you to-day, you will see that the gross profit is £936,351, which is £34,000 more than last year. Expenses are £381,802, an increase of £7,000 compared with 1923. This increase arises solely from the fact that in the course of the year we incurred considerable expense in issuing a new model of our £E1 note. Apart from this special expenditure, which we fear may recur in the year 1925, the other items of expenses show an appreciable decline.

The net profits are £554,549, from which we propose to place a sum of £100,000 to the special reserve, to pay a dividend of 15 per cent., requiring £450,000, and to increase the carry forward by £4,000, which will bring it up to £190,250. Our statutory reserve and our special reserve, after the allocation of £100,000 just mentioned, will amount to £2,425,000, as against a capital of £3,000,000—a very strong position to have attained in a life of twenty-five years only.

The total of our balance-sheet is again larger than that of the previous year owing to the increase in our deposits, more particularly that of the Egyptian Government. This increase is reflected on the assets side of the accounts by a larger holding of Government securities, which consists almost entirely of short-dated obligations, easy of realisation in case of need, but, on the other hand, yielding only a moderate rate of interest.

The total of our advances is not so large as we should like to see it. Even allowing for the special nature of a large part of our deposits, advances represent only a modest proportion of our resources, and we should be glad of opportunities to increase them. But owing to the general state of prosperity in the country, the demand for accommodation tends to diminish, whilst, on the other hand, competition for good business becomes keener.

We were not without hope of being able to inform you of the final result of the proceedings taken against our debtors in Germany, but we are not yet able to do so. Considerable progress has, however, been made in this affair. As we informed you a year ago, our debtors contested the competence of the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal to which we had to submit our case; the hearing of this point took place in December, 1923, and by judgment given on May 27, 1924, the Tribunal declared itself competent to hear the case.

A further interlocutory hearing took place in June last, as a result of which the German Government and the German Bank were ordered to supply us with certain information regarding our accounts for which we had asked. In January of this year there was a new hearing. The result of this, which reached us by cable only a few days ago, appears to be favourable, but we are unable to give you fuller details until we receive the actual text.

Our Note Issue has followed a normal course throughout the year, falling steadily from £E35,600,000, at which it stood on January 1, till August 16, when it reached its minimum of £E26,900,000, and rising again to a maximum of £E42,400,000 at December 3. This variation is due to currency requirements, which increase or decrease according to the season; but, thanks to the system governing the Note Issue, there is no consequent disturbance in exchange.

It will interest you to know that since the present arrangement covering the Note Issue was concluded with the Government in 1916, the bank has paid the Egyptian Treasury a sum of not less than £E9,250,000 as the latter's share of the profits arising from the inconvertibility of the issue. This fact is not generally realised nor is the burden of work and responsibility which falls on the bank fully appreciated. The material operations of the issue are in a sense automatic, but behind it all lies an organisation which demands constant vigilance and care.

We append the usual statistics of Egypt's foreign trade for the last five years, from which it will be seen that the commercial year 1923-24 resulted in a favourable trade balance of very little under £E17,000,000:—

Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.	Imports.	Exports (inc. re-exports).
1919-1920	£E87,577,985	£E113,461,806
1920-1921	71,725,677 ...	37,690,260
1921-1922	46,006,529 ...	50,185,140
1922-1923	44,453,116 ...	53,561,788
1923-1924	47,440,590 ...	64,109,696

During the season 1923-24 Egyptian cotton of all grades was in good demand, and the carry-over into the current season of 1924-25 was insignificant. It is expected that the current crop will be about 7,000,000 cantars, of which a large part has already been exported on favourable terms. We may therefore expect that the balance of trade for the year 1924-25 will be even more favourable than that just mentioned.

In view of the many invisible factors, it is always difficult to determine exactly how a trade balance is liquidated. It is certain, however, that Egypt has employed large sums in the purchase of Egyptian securities from abroad, and whereas the percentage of coupons of the Egyptian Unified and Privileged paid in Egypt was only 14 per cent. in 1919, it had risen to 57 per cent. in 1924.

During 1924 trade conditions in the Sudan have been on the whole satisfactory, and the following figures of imports and exports show a marked increase over those of 1923:—

	Imports.	Exports.
1920	£E7,006,865 ...	£E5,075,971
1921	5,806,070 ...	2,318,533
1922	4,252,890 ...	2,298,770
1923	4,669,004 ...	2,758,425
1924	5,474,910 ...	3,830,171

The increase of exports arises chiefly from the larger quantity of cotton exported, which in 1924 amounted to 186,000 cantars, of a value of £E1,460,991, against 113,000 cantars valued at £E458,188 in 1923. This fact has resulted in an increased purchasing power of the population which is reflected in the larger imports of sugar and tea.

The excess of imports over exports is due to capital expenditure incurred in the construction of new irrigation and railway works of which the country will reap the benefit in the future.

We have to deplore the death of our colleague, Sir Joseph Saba Pacha, which occurred shortly after our last general

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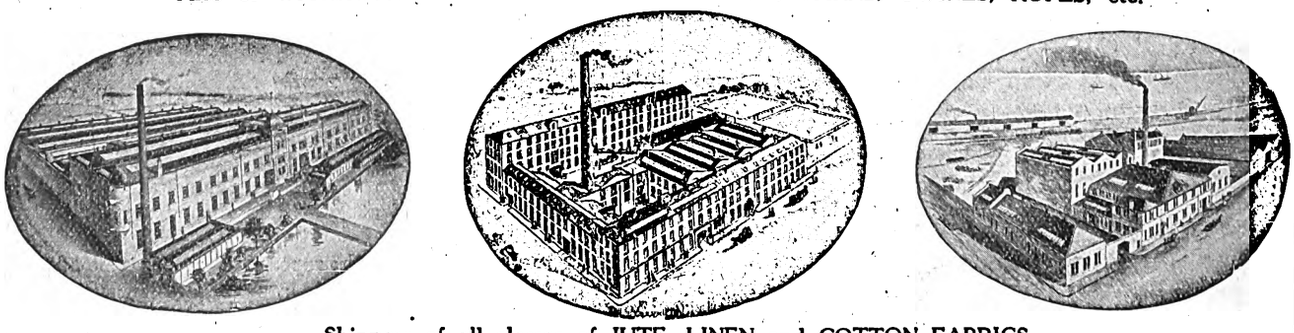
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meeting. Before joining our board, Saba Pacha had a long and distinguished career in the service of the Egyptian Government; he was universally respected for his high character and sound judgment.

We also have to regret the death of Mr. F. H. Russell, who had been one of our auditors since 1902. Our statutes contain no provision for filling up a vacancy for an auditor; the board invited Mr. J. C. Sidley to fill the vacancy provisionally, and we ask your approval of this step.

In the course of the year we elected H. E. Ahmed Ziwer Pacha to the board, and though we no longer have the advantage of his presence, it is necessary to ask you to ratify his appointment. Ziwer Pacha, as you know, took office as Prime Minister last November, and was consequently obliged to resign from the board.

We regret to inform you of the resignation of Mr. John Home, our sub-governor in Cairo, who had rendered long and devoted service to the bank almost from its foundation in 1898. As Mr. Home is not leaving Egypt the directors have secured the benefit of his long experience of the bank's business by electing him to a seat on the board, and I am sure you will have pleasure in ratifying his appointment.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the sub-governors, the managers, and staff for their services during the year.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Rails, Etc.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 9,675 metrical tons of rails, and 709 metrical tons of steel fishplates and angled stops. April 28.

Bolts and Nuts, Etc.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 152 metrical tons of bolts and nuts for fishplate, 2,027 metrical tons of coachscrews, and 1,501 metrical tons of saddles for rails. April 29.

Sleepers.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. May 2.

The air service between Prague, Bratislava, and Kosice was recently resumed.

It is reported from Prague that a new air navigation company has just been formed there with a capital of 10,000,000 crowns.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eight days ended February 28 amounted to £E7,286, making the total from April 1, £E329,085. For the corresponding periods of the previous twelve months the totals were £E8,314 and £E304,908.

Consignments of potatoes entering Czecho-Slovakia must be accompanied by a declaration of the phytopathological institute in the country of origin to the effect that the potatoes are free from potato blight or other dangerous disease, and that no case of potato blight has occurred, either where the potatoes were grown or within a distance of ten kilometres from their place of origin. Declarations of the sender and of the shipper are also required.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Twenty-Second Ordinary General Meeting of The Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Wednesday, the 15th April, 1925, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1925;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 3rd April, 1925), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

B. HORNSBY, President.

Cairo, 12th March, 1925.

COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended March 12 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been again rather active and firm for both Sakel and Uppers; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis: $4.25 up for March, $4.35 up for May, $4.95 up for July, $1 up for November, $0.90 up for January. Ashmouni: $0.63 up for April, $0.70 up for June, $0.03 down for October.

At March 2 tender Crs. 500 dockets were issued. This is a negligible quantity, and emphasises the narrowness of the position; March is still worth $2 over May, and had there been a better supply of tenderable grades undoubtedly more cotton would have been tendered, especially as the demand from abroad has recently been so small. The Uppers market has also been rather firm, due mainly to a steady demand from abroad. The scarcity of American long staple cottons and the consequent rise in premiums has turned spinners' attention to Uppers, especially to the high grades. New crop options have been active, but prices have not fluctuated much. Speculators are tempted by the relative cheapness of new crops compared to old crops, but, on the other hand, the big growers consider present levels satisfactory and willingly sell against a proportion of their growing crops. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 73,067, against exports Crs. 120,606; the stock stands at Crs. 1,443,810.

Spot.—We have had a rather quiet week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 15,900 bales, of which we estimate 5,400 bales Sakel, 7,800 bales Uppers, 1,700 bales Zagora, 100 bales Brown, 600 bales Pilion, and 300 bales White.

Sakellarides has been in rather improved demand. All styles have been dealt in, but the medium and lower qualities have attracted most attention. Spot differences are generally a little easier, as sellers have not insisted on the full rise in contracts in view of the still very moderate demand. Fully Good is exceptionally dearer, whilst Fully Fair and below are markedly cheaper.

Ashmouni and Zagora continue to attract buyers' attention, and have again absorbed the larger portion of the week's business. Excepting for Good and better, which are appreciably dearer and in good demand, spot differences are without much change from last week.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot differences are unchanged for medium qualities, easier for the lower grades and dearer for Good and better.

Pilion has been in improved request. Spot differences are without much change except for the high grades, which are dearer.

White has met with rather more demand. Spot differences are generally rather easier.

Crop 1925.—Climatic conditions are, on the whole, settled and favourable. Sowing is progressing normally; in the Northern districts it is slightly in advance of last year. Reports on the germination of the early sown fields are good. Sudan Nile gauges continue to be slightly below last year, but no decision has yet been published regarding rice cultivation.

The Turkish Customs authorities have received instructions to apply a consumption duty, equal to the Customs duty, to cotton fabrics and woollen and worsted fabrics (pure or mixed) falling under Nos. 270 and 323 of the Turkish Customs Tariff.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Chief Office, TEHERAN.

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

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Central Office:
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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - - - - **Rs. 4.67.50.000**

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

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

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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

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CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

Court of Directors.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., [K.C.B.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
HENRY BATESON, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MADRAS	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(PhilippineIslands)

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NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

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The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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§CATHAY	15,000	Mar. 27	—	Colombo & Australia
*MOREA	11,000	Mar. 27	Apr. 3	Straits, China, Japan
RANPURA	16,100	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Bombay & Karachi
†NANKIN	7,000	Apr. 4	—	Colombo & Calcutta
†KALYAN	9,000	Apr. 9	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN	21 000	Apr. 9	Apr. 17	Colombo & Australia
CHINA	8,000	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	Bombay & Karachi

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§ Taking passengers for Algiers and Port Sudan.

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¶§GAZANA	5,284	Mar. 28	Apr. 11	Bombay & Karachi
*MASHOBRA	8,288	Mar. 28	Apr 11	Madras & Calcutta
MORVADA	8,193	Apr. 4	Apr. 18	East African Ports
‡MANDALA	8,245	—	Apr. 24	Bombay & Karachi
‖MANOR	7,888	Apr. 18	Apr. 25	Madras & Calcutta
§DURENDA	7,241	Apr. 22	May 9	Bombay & Karachi

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THE NEAR EAST

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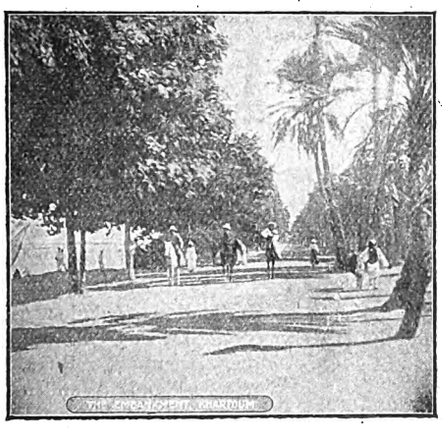

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 725—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1925.

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We must apologise for the lateness of the appearance of last week's issue of *The Near East*. Owing to a dispute in the bookbinding section of the printing trade, it was not possible to publish upon our usual day (Thursday), with the result that the overseas mail was lost.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Lord Balfour in Palestine.

Although no untoward incident has marked the Earl of Balfour's visit to Palestine, the unwisdom of it remains. This statement is in no way an endorsement of the Arab attitude. The organisation of a strike was in keeping with the negative attitude that the Arabs in Palestine have continuously adopted towards the reconstruction of the country. They, or their spokesmen of the Arab Executive, have refused to co-operate in the Government, and they have boycotted elections; at no time have they given any indication of having a constructive policy of their own. If a protest had to be made on the occasion of Lord Balfour's visit it is to the credit of the organisers of the strike that it was carried through in an orderly and dignified manner. A more statesmanlike and more practical course to adopt would have been to have left no stone unturned to impress the distinguished visitor with the justice of the Arab case. As a guest of the Jews throughout the whole of his visit, and afforded an opportunity of inspecting the very considerable benefits that Jewish talents, industry, and finance have conferred upon Palestine, Lord Balfour can hardly fail to gain the impression that the policy of the Declaration was not only ethically right, but also the best in the interests of the country. Whether that is the conviction which the Arabs wanted him to derive from his visit they must decide for themselves. The mischief of which Lord Balfour's presence in Palestine was potentially capable lay in the fact that it might serve to fan the animosity between Arab and Jew, which, as a result of the foolish conduct of the Arab Executive, was beginning to die down. If any good can come of the visit, it will be in the opportunity that it has afforded of emphasising the true rôle of the Jews in Palestine, not as political overlords, but as pioneers of an economic development for peoples of the Middle East and adjacent lands.

Yugoslav Politics.

Stormy scenes have been enacted in the Yugoslav Parliament as a result of the Government's announcement that it proposed to cancel at least half of the Croatian mandates on the ground of the relationship between the Raditch group and Soviet Russia. The leader of the Opposition, M. Davidovitch, denied the accuracy of the Government's allegations against the Croatian Peasant Party; but the Cabinet's spokesmen declared that they would want something more definite than words to satisfy them of the genuineness of any alteration in the attitude of M. Raditch and his followers. After five days of debate a statement was read in the Skupshtina by M. Paul Raditch, nephew of the Croat leader, on behalf of the Croat Peasant Party and of M. Raditch himself, who is still in prison, to the effect that they acknowledge the existing State of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Karageorgevitch Dynasty, and the Vidovdan Constitution, with the reservation that it calls for Parliamentary revision, and that they desire to collaborate in a constructive policy. As a result of this declaration, the Government will not proceed to annul the mandates of the thirty Raditchists who, together with the six leaders under arrest, were supposed to be tarred with the Soviet brush. Their case will be subjected to further consideration, and only the mandates of the six leaders will be annulled at once. This unexpected development in Yugoslav politics is to be welcomed. During the régime of M. Davidovitch, the late Prime Minister, an understanding with the Croat Peasant Party on the present lines often seemed imminent, but was invariably frustrated by some egregiously foolish speech on the part of M. Raditch, giving the lie to all that his representatives in Belgrade were urging on his behalf. His imprisonment will have served a useful purpose if it enables his party to play its part in the orderly constitutional development of the country.

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Yugoslavia's Economic Needs.

The statement read by M. Paul-Raditch in the Skupshtina means, it is to be hoped, that the Croatians have at last realised that the policy formerly championed by their leader left the country in a blind alley. A large portion of the period since the Armistice has been wasted in barren strife, and during this time no sustained effort has been made to grapple with economic problems. It would seem as if the Pashitch Government, under the prompting of its able Minister of Finance, has realised that Yugoslavia's first need is to be placed on a sound economic basis. The material is to hand, but it has not been possible to make adequate use of it. Since the constituent parts of the new State came together some notable changes have taken place in their economic conditions. Slovenia, for example, is gravely penalised by separation from Trieste, her former port of export. The whole of Yugoslavia needs capital to enable it to adjust its industrial life to the new conditions, but the political unrest has been a strong factor in keeping at arm's length the needed funds. When it is realised that the differences between political parties are no longer likely to entail a fundamental unsettling of the peace of the country an important obstacle to the introduction of foreign, in particular British, capital will, it is to be hoped, have been removed.

The Kurdish Revolt.

As was foreseen, the Turkish Government is dealing with the Kurdish revolt on sound military lines. A general converging movement is in progress from the north, west, and south, but the Turkish troops do not appear to have been able to close the eastern side of the disaffected area. In these circumstances the main body of insurgents may be expected to escape eastward, and the Turks will have to content themselves with settling accounts with the districts where the revolt occurred. It is to the credit of the Government that they have issued a manifesto offering a pardon to the inhabitants if they take steps to dissociate themselves from the revolt. They are required to declare before the nearest civil or military officials of the Republic that they do not sympathise with the rebellion, and that they are ready for voluntary service; those who have played a more active part have to purchase pardon by handing over to the Government their leaders and the agitators. Whether conditions in Kurdistan are sufficiently settled to enable full advantage to be taken of this offer before the troops arrive remains to be seen. In suppressing the revolt the Turks need to bear in mind that it will be better and less expensive for them in the long run to keep the Kurds on their side by a sense of community of interests rather than expose themselves to the risk of constant risings in this part of Turkey.

France and Turkey.

The visit of M. Franklin-Bouillon to Angora has inevitably given rise to speculation in some quarters as to whether France is endeavouring to negotiate another treaty with Turkey. It would be a poor compliment to the new French Ambassador if the negotiations were regarded as too delicate to be entrusted to his inexperienced hands, and we may infer that M. Franklin-Bouillon has been sent to reinforce the laborious spade-work that Colonel Mougin has been undertaking for the last five months at Angora with a view to securing concessions for French capital. A Franco-Turkish alliance would be welcomed in France, if it did not give away too much; but the present obstacle in the way is the fact that the Turks are laying special stress on possession of the whole of the Baghdad Railway as far as Nisibin. France has already consented to a frontier rectification of the territory earmarked for her mandate to enable the main portion of the railway to be on Turkish soil, but it is doubtful whether French public opinion would favour the transfer of Aleppo and Alexandretta to Turkey. In negotiating for concessions in Turkey, France is doing nothing contrary to the spirit of the entente with Great Britain; the only cause for complaint is that her representatives go out of their way to indulge in petty-minded political intrigues against Great Britain, the details of which are known *urbi et orbi*. In this way the official attempts of the Allied Powers to deal jointly with Turkey in regard to any particular subject are almost entirely stultified.

INDIA.

The Central Legislature.

The month spent over the Budget at Delhi seems to us to mark a definite advance in the working of the Legislature. Experienced politicians and administrators could doubtless find ample scope for criticism, but in Delhi the politicians are not yet experienced, and when we look at their work as politics-in-the-making, we feel ourselves able to congratulate them on their progress. A year or so ago the bulk of them formed a *bloc*, in which men of very different opinions agreed to speak with one voice—rather a childish exhibition at the best. During the recent debates there have usually been two voices instead of one, and each wing has told much truth about the other, so that a definite step has been taken in the direction of reality. The Budget itself is by no means perfect, but the fact remains that it is the work of the Legislature, and not of an executive stepping in to do the Legislature's work. Next year, then, we may hope that rather better work may be done with rather less effort, and that eventually the men who come to Delhi as declared wreckers may go back to their constituencies with, on the whole, a creditable record of constructive achievement.

The Provinces.

In the provinces, too, there are indications of slow progress. The system of dyarchy, which amateur doctors have so often certified to be dead, persists in showing signs of life, and occasionally increased vigour, in seven provinces out of nine, and it is only in Nagpur and Calcutta that its health is seriously impaired. Nagpur matters very little to India as a whole, and might well remain for some time as a little Alsatia of what politicians call despotism—a warning to its neighbours of the dangers which still threaten them. Bengal has reached the point where it wants Ministers in the abstract; but refuses to pay any Ministers in particular, because it is wholly absorbed in trivial personalities. Sir Surendranath Banerjea, who understands these matters, says Lord Lytton's Government has blundered all through, but, while we may agree that it was a mistake to take too active a hand in the petty game, we cannot absolve on that account the people who started the game and have kept it going so ardently. For another year or so, then, Bengal must remain a politically backward tract; but we fancy it will soon tire of that unenviable position, and set its brains to work on worthier objects. Once it decides to do so, it will have very little difficulty in making up for the time it has lost.

Lord Rawlinson.

The news of Lord Rawlinson's death will be received with as deep regret in India as in this country. Coming to the chief command with a well-earned military reputation, he had to under-

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take a task of the kind from which a great soldier might reasonably shrink—to cut down, even to the danger-point, expenditure on the admirable professional defences of the country, and at the same time to lay the foundations of a new national army, which may eventually defend the country equally well, but in the long period of transition must be a constant source of anxiety. Lord Rawlinson threw himself heartily into the work, and throughout played the game for his side—that is to say, for England and the Empire, determined to give India the best possible chance of attaining a worthy position in the world. It is too soon yet to estimate the prospects of an Indian national army, an institution which must necessarily be an entire break with the past, and which is very nearly incompatible with old-standing social conditions; but the attempt had in any case to be made, and Sir William Birdwood, the new Commander-in-Chief, has now to carry on the work begun with such energy and sagacity by Lord Rawlinson.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Government and Germany.

This Conservative Government is at last convinced of the sincerity of Germany, and, in renouncing the Protocol to which the Labour Government gave its adherence, is relying upon the German offer regarding the permanence of the Prussians' Western frontier and the impermanence of her Eastern frontier (for that is what it amounts to). Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Baldwin at least are prepared to trust Germany's word, and they have persuaded the major portion of the Press to follow them. Whether Parliament generally, and the nation at large, will so easily consent to the future re-partitioning of Poland remains to be seen.

Speaking personally, one sees no reason why Germany's word should be trusted, nor why her Eastern frontier is any less to be secured than her Western. If one looks ahead, the most likely combination against us would be Russia, China, and Japan, and one would add, if Danzig is to be awarded to Germany, Germany. For our own interests alone, quite apart from those of France, the Boche's Eastern frontier should be as closely watched as his Western borders.

It is difficult not to suppose that the bankers and financiers generally are behind this German proposal and the British acceptation of it, for, as certainly as anything can be prophesied, it will lead to that repartitioning of Poland the forerunner of which in the eighteenth century war made by us so great a count against Prussian Imperialism.

Liberal "Unity."

Considering the number of capitalists who are, or who used to be, behind the Liberal Party, the Liberal Million Pound Fund seems badly to have hung fire. No sign has yet been made of how it is progressing, and in the meantime the rifts in the Liberal lute are becoming daily more manifest. There is no question now that to describe the relations existing between the Radical group headed by Mr. Runciman and that in which Mr. Lloyd George's influence still obtains as "unity" is quite ridiculous.

Further, it is generally believed that Mr. Lloyd George has nipped in the bud the proposal to appoint Mr. Vivian Phillipps, a stalwart Asquithite, to be Chief Organiser to the party. Perhaps the Asquith-Lloyd George feud will be healed only with the decease of those from whom its name is derived.

Unemployment and the Dole.

The Government has at last brilliantly confessed that it has no cure for unemployment—an expression of honesty of which the Labour Government was, and the Liberal partlet is, incapable. In a debate on the subject last week, discussion raged vainly round this question, and the dole, which seems to be at once the safety valve of the unemployed and an inducement to non-employment, was described without contradiction as "dope."

It is typical of the Liberals that they should be loudest in decrying the dole, as if everyone did now know that it created a lazy temperament, discouraged emigration, and did many other undesirable things. The point is: What shall be substituted for it? And answer comes there none.

House of Lords Reform.

Last week the House of Lords touched the question of the reform of the House of Lords. All sorts of views were expressed, and the result was once more that a Committee be formed to study the question in all its aspects. There are those who wish so to reform the Upper House as to make it a more powerful check on what are called the workings of democracy—in other words, the wishes of the dominant party in the Commons: there are those who wish still further to decrease the Lords' powers, and particularly to abolish the hereditary principle; and there are those who, like Lord Haldane, wish to "leave well alone."

It is true that the matter is extraordinarily difficult; for one thing, previous experience goes to show that the more the nominal powers of the Lords are decreased the more its real influence grows. The probability is, therefore, that the Cabinet Committee will decide in favour of inaction.

Broadcasting.

The desirability of broadcasting has been widely discussed during the last few days in connection with two institutions—the House of Commons and Tetrazzini. In the House Mr. Baldwin promised that a Joint Committee to consider the question of broadcasting debates at large, and certain members of Parliament have so far anticipated events as to practise already addressing their remarks to "Mr. Loud Speaker," instead of to "Mr. Speaker." In New South Wales, I believe, the experiment of Parliamentary broadcasting has recently been indulged in, with popular results. Whether in this country, however, the effect of listening to politicians' platitudes and hesitations and discretions would not drive the listeners-in to such fury that they would all become Guy Fawkeses is open to doubt. The House is really a very dull place indeed, and it surely does not stand so high in popular esteem as to risk a further decline. Would the fact that all England was in the Strangers' Gallery brighten proceedings or make party politicians less transparently dishonest?

The Tetrazzini affair was a far less serious matter. This Italian *coloratura* singer had, it seems, broadcasted her voice a few days before she was due to give a concert at the Albert Hall. Result (according to her agents): the vast arena practically empty. Never before had the diva had such an experience. Both she and her agents were obviously annoyed.

Whether the failure of the concert was *post hoc* or *propter hoc* is a little uncertain. Sometimes the transmission by wireless of a musician's artistry so damages it as to make popular interest in him or her decay; sometimes it makes one determined to hear him or her in the flesh. The most obvious explanation is that the public, having heard Tetrazzini on the wireless, simply thought that

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her voice as it is at present did not warrant a journey to Kensington; but, not having heard her, I cannot say whether it is correct.

Racing.

Last week flat racing began, and, then, too, we had the excitement of the famous old double, the Lincoln and the National. Once more a French horse, Tapin, took away the first prize in the Lincoln. an Irish representative was second, and the herald of the cricket season, King Willow, third. I have met no one who got all these in correct order.

More thrilling than this was the Grand National, which was won by a 100-9 chance, Double Chance. It must have been a wonderful sight at Aintree. This handicap threatens, indeed, to become a more popular event than the Derby. Thousands from London alone are attracted to it.

The Boatrace.

For the fifth time since the War Cambridge won the boatrace, but the event on Saturday was rather a tragedy than a race. I was not there, and so can only record written and spoken opinions. It is the judgment of some observers that the water on the Surrey side (Cambridge won the toss and chose the Middlesex side) was too rough for any crew to start in, and that, if it were not possible to start two boats on the north side, "no race" should have been declared. As things were, the sinking of the Dark Blue boat, watermanship or no watermanship, was inevitable.

On the other hand, there are those who say that Cambridge would have won the race even if they had lost the toss—that the only thing, in fact, which would have made a contest of it, was for the Light Blue stroke to catch a couple of crabs similar to the three which he had made during training.

However all these things may be, two facts appear to stand out clearly enough—that neither crew was up to the usual standard, and that Oxford had extremely bad luck with illness in the critical period before the race.

In the evening, although there was no fountain in Piccadilly Circus to climb, fortunes and misfortunes appeared to be flushedly forgotten; no doubt Vine Street collected a gallant few. The crowd there, however, seemed to contain a disagreeable proportion of potentially Bolshevist touts.

The New Motor Roads.

The new arterial road for traffic between London and Essex which Prince Henry opened on March 25 may serve as an example of the way in which the country is being opened up. This road, like all the other arterial roads, being primarily designed for mechanical transport, has been laid straight and level, like the railway tracks. Without question these lines of communication will detract from the beauty of the countryside, but it seems that they are a necessity. At least, the Ministry of Transport is doing what it can to lessen their potentialities for ugliness; he has just declared that these new roads must be kept free from a litter of advertisements and shoddy buildings. This, at any rate, is something. What would the long, straight roads of France, for example, be without their poplar trees? In this country, if the Ministry of Transport does not inhibit the erection along the bleak, straight roads of petrol and pills advertisements, nobody will; that the purveyors of such things will attempt to take advantage of the new roads to blare their wares is certain.

Death Penalty in the Army.

The Labour Government, it may be remembered, appointed a Committee to report on the advisability of abolishing the death penalty in the Navy, Army, and Air Force. This Committee has just recommended that the extreme penalty be retained on active service but abolished in peace time for all offences except mutiny.

One is almost sorry that the Labour Party is not still in office to receive the very sensible recommendation of its Committee. The conscientious objector crowd of this party made an enormous fuss over those men in our armies who were shot by the British authorities, and in their ignorance and amazing stupidity they seemed likely to win over many of the "sentimentals." As a matter of fact, no one who has been in any of the Services (and no one else is competent to form, much less to express, an opinion) will doubt that on active service the death penalty must be retained. Moreover, it was much more discreetly dealt out than those who rant against it seem to know. In the Great War, for example, it is, I believe, a fact that for sleeping on sentry duty only two men were shot. Without such discipline as the extreme penalty implies, there might, further, be far more cowards than there are.

Alter Ego.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSE FOR ARMY OFFICERS.

A series of five and six months' courses in the Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Bulgarian, and Japanese languages have been arranged at King's College and the School of Oriental Studies for Army officers, to commence next October. The object of the courses is to enable officers to master the rudiments of a language before going abroad for the purpose of further study. It is stated in an Army order that the situation as regards the number of officers studying foreign languages is unsatisfactory, and that every facility should be given to officers who are desirous of attending these courses. In all there are fifty vacancies for the courses allotted to the various commands. To be eligible to attend, an officer must hold a permanent commission in the Regular Army, be unmarried and under 30 years of age, and his previous record, educational and military, must be such as to justify expenditure on further education.

Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Roumania have now signed the three draft agreements adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Law at Brussels for the unification of Maritime Law.

In connection with the forthcoming transfer of part of Jubaland to Italy, the Government of Italian Somaliland has formed a special corps of occupation, composed of Arabs under the command of Italian officers, to maintain order and carry out the police duties in the newly-acquired territory.

The annual dinner of the 29th Division Association will be held in London at the Café Royal on Saturday, April 25. the tenth anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, M.P., President of the Association, who commanded the 29th Division at the landing, will preside. General Sir Ian Hamilton and Admiral Sir John de Robeck will be the guests of the evening.

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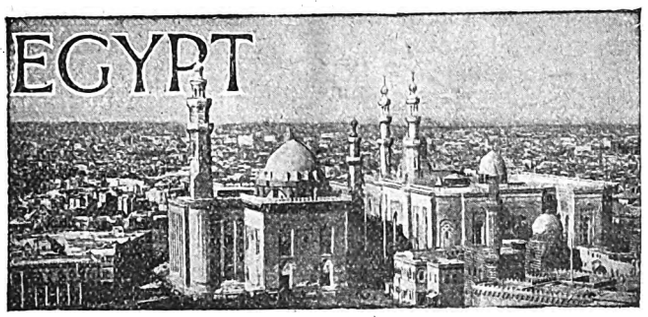
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, March 22.

The Desirability of "Yehia."

Two meetings held during the past week have revealed a notable difference between the two main political parties on the important question of "To Yehia or not to Yehia." Anyone who has attended Zaghloulist meetings has realised that an important part of the proceedings consists in the cheer-master's intervention, whenever dullness threatens, with his call for "Yehia Saad Pasha Zaghloul." or "Yehia the great Leader," or "Yehia the Nation's deputy," or something similar. (Yehia, it should be pointed out, means "Long live.") The cry is roared three times by the hearers with all their strength, and seems to put new life into everyone. Whenever enthusiasm flags or spirits droop, there is always present someone to apply the reviving "Yehia." The custom, it must be said, has not been the monopoly of any one political party, although the Zaghloulists must surely have the copyright, and, in fairness, should receive a royalty every time anyone else does the "Yehia" performance. It looks as though in the future these occasions will be few, for on Thursday afternoon the new Minister of Justice, being greeted at a political meeting with the old familiar cry, turned and rated his audience soundly, pointing out that these cries should be reserved for the King alone, and that, by their attitude in the past of something akin to worship of political leaders the Egyptian people had themselves been chiefly responsible for making some of those leaders the sublime egoists they had become.

Perhaps it is necessary to have lived in Egypt during the past few years to appreciate fully what an unusual independence of thought and an equally rare courage the making of such a speech implies. Exactly the reverse attitude was exhibited at a tea party given yesterday afternoon at the Semiramis Hotel by Zaghloulist senators and deputies. There, it was "Yehias, Yehias all the way," and the guest of the afternoon appeared to derive much satisfaction from the loudly expressed wishes for his longevity.

The Egyptian Climate.

It is a favourite theory of the older inhabitants that the climate of Egypt is changing. It rains more nowadays, they say, than it used to do: the summers are not so hot, but are much damper, while the winters are much colder. All of which is probably true, owing to the increased area of cultivation, though it may be doubted whether the extent of the change has really been very noticeable. But the winter now ending has certainly been abnormal. During three weeks it rained on almost every day, there was a long-continued cold spell, during which, on one or two nights, water left outdoors had ice on it in the morning—a rare occurrence in Cairo—and during the whole winter the amount of cloud in the sky has been unusually large.

Homing Visitors.

There is still much coming and going of tourist parties, but the visitors who spend the whole winter or most of it in Egypt are now all moving in one direction. Combined with the unusual exodus of British officials during April, these departures are making homeward shipping traffic unusually busy for the time of year, for the normal rush to Europe does not set in with any severity until the latter part of May. This year many people are taking advantage of the vacant accommodation in homeward bound cruising steamships. With such vessels as the Homeric, Adriatic, Mauretania, Belgenland, and some of the Canadian Pacific boats to choose from, the homeward journey can be made in conditions of exceptional luxury, and although, in order to avoid unfair competition with the regular Egyptian services, fares are fixed considerably higher than those of the lines normally serving Egypt, there are plenty of people ready to pay the extra charge for the sake of the super-comfort secured.

The "Assistant Oriental Secretary."

An innovation in practice at the Residency is the appointment of a member of the Consular service as Assistant Oriental Secretary, a post which has not previously existed in name, though, in fact, Mr. L. B. Grafftey-Smith, who has just arrived here from Constantinople, will succeed to the work of Mr. O. M. Tweedy, who resigned from the Foreign Office service last December. Mr. Grafftey-Smith was attached to the Residency in 1919; afterwards he spent three years at Jeddah before being sent to Constantinople.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, March 24.

Inert Parliamentarians.

The last week has passed without any political events worthy of special mention. Parliament continues its work without great ardour, if one can

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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judge by the small number of deputies who attend, but laws are passed with great rapidity, probably for that reason.

The Rights of Minorities.

The debates in the Senate on administrative reform accorded an opportunity to M. Ion Bratiano of making a remarkable speech on the rights of the minorities. The point of view of the Government was set forth very clearly and firmly by the President of the Council. In the light of his undoubted practical sense, he also showed the nature of the moral contract which binds to old Roumania the populations of the territories acquired after the War. Indeed, although the Opposition may reproach the present Government with some apparent justification on account of its economic policy, it would be hard to criticise the main lines of the Government's policy, which appear to be well considered, and are carried out with great perseverance and determination, though the means employed in their execution are not always in accordance with Western ideas.

Two Bills.

Two interesting Bills are to be submitted to Parliament: (1) the new Pensions Law, which aims at co-ordinating into one the various systems now in force in the different provinces. This Bill will greatly simplify the formalities in general, and is inspired by more liberal and humanitarian doctrines; and (2) the Bill for the "Autonomy of the Railways." It must not, however, be supposed from this title that the Bill will introduce any essential modifications except that the budget of the railways will be separated from that of the State, but the right of the railways to contract loans and issue railway bonds will remain under the control of the Ministry of Communications and of Parliament. This new law, which is only one step on the way to autonomy, will admit of the participation of foreign capital in railway enterprises, the development of which is an urgent need in the vital interests of Roumania. It is intended to pass the law so as to bring it into force on April 1.

Restricted Exports.

A recent decision of the Council of Ministers included rye, barley, and maize among "articles of first necessity for the food of the population," and prohibited their export. This new restrictive measure is severely criticised in general, and, of course, chiefly affects the agriculturists, who, indeed, get very little encouragement by the post-War regulations to produce those national riches of Roumania—wheat and maize. It is to be regretted that this restrictive policy, which was tried abroad and abandoned almost everywhere on account of its undesirable consequences, should still continue to flourish in Roumania. As a result, navigation is suffering, as it is more and more difficult for vessels leaving the Roumanian ports to find cargoes.

The Little Entente and Germany.

The foreign policy of the Little Entente is at present preoccupied with the attitude of Germany in regard to the agreement relative to guarantees. Czecho-Slovakia and Poland feel there is a direct menace to their frontiers in the German position, and Roumania and Yugoslavia are not less alarmed in view of the defensive alliance which unites them to their neighbours. In Roumania generally great hopes are reposed in England for the solution of the problem of security in the Balkans.

The International Convention on Bessarabia of 1920.

The Press is much occupied with the decision to be taken shortly by the Italian Government concerning the ratification of this convention, which united Bessarabia to Roumania. A few months ago it was feared that Italy, who has lately acquired commercial interests in Russia, might side with that country and refuse to ratify the above convention, and that such a step might create strained relations between Italy and Roumania. At the present moment the Press appears to be more optimistic, though it is still much concerned as to the impending decision.

By-Elections.

At Gorj (Oltenia) and at Reghinul-Sasese (Ardeal) by-elections are about to be held, in the former case for a seat in the Senate, and in the latter for a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. In both places the whole electoral propaganda machinery was set in motion, and the results are being awaited with lively interest. At Reghinul-Sasese, as the Government have no candidate, they are supporting M. Goga, an influential member of General Averescu's party, and it is reported that he has every chance of being elected. If he is, the party of General Averescu may draw fairly important conclusions as to its own popularity in Transylvania.

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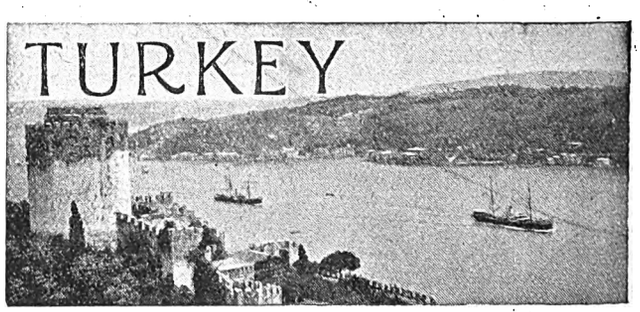

Constantinople, March 24.

M. Franklin Bouillon's Visit.

M. Franklin Bouillon, well known here as "Turkey's friend," has been awarded an enthusiastic and pompous reception on his present visit to Turkey. Arriving here on Saturday last, he stayed one day only in Constantinople before proceeding to the capital, accompanied by General Mougin. Though literally besieged by journalists, who hopefully followed him as far as Pendik, M. Franklin Bouillon abstained from giving any information on the reasons for his visit—other than the expression of a wish to see his great friend the President of the Republic. He promised, however, to furnish the Press with a full account of his mission after his return from Angora. Whilst it is generally understood that the three questions

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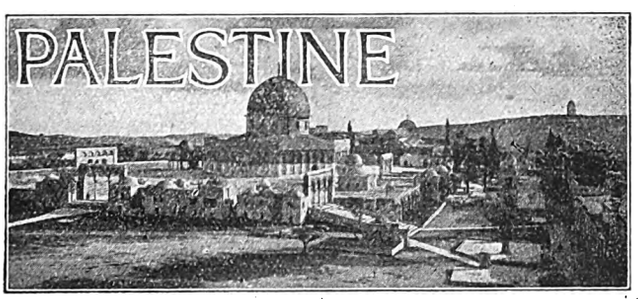
still in suspense between France and Turkey—the delimitation of the Turko-Syrian frontiers, the administration of Alexandretta, and the coupons—are to be discussed, some ulterior motive for this visit is sought by the Press, and the latter fosters the conviction that France, experiencing certain internal and external difficulties having connection with the present international European negotiations is, through M. Franklin Bouillon, making certain soundings regarding the possibilities of an alliance with its comparatively new sister Republic.

The Kurdistan Revolt.

In the event of everything going off in accordance with plans, the days of the Kurdish rebellion are numbered. March 27 is given as the date for the commencement of the military operations, preparations for which are now completed. Large forces have been pushed up to the regions affected by the Kurdish movement, and have taken up positions so as completely to surround the insurgents, and news of important engagements is expected to arrive here shortly. Even though the scattered activities of the rebels go to prove a great weakening in their movement, the forces despatched for their repression will, undoubtedly, all be necessary, as the area covered is very extensive and, strategically, the most difficult in Turkey. The latest reports state that the insurgents, convinced of failure in view of the approaching military operations, are splitting up into groups and endeavouring to terrorise the populations into their support, and so to ruin the Government's attempt to recruit the inhabitants for the assistance of the regular troops. According to a Kurdish rebel who has succeeded in escaping to Syria, the turn of the tide for the revolutionists is to be attributed to the non-fulfilment of promises made by the Kurdish leaders to their followers.



Jerusalem, March 21.

Balfourian Creation of Arab Unity.

Lord Balfour will, it seems, reach Jerusalem next Tuesday, March 24. What will be the outcome of the Arab Executive's attempts to make capital out of the visit is still a matter of some doubt. The Government, determined to take no risks, has warned all available troops and police to be ready for any emergency. But it does not appear to have responded to the Arab demand to be told when exactly to expect Lord Balfour, in order that Arab patriotism shall not be strained to the extent of having to "go on strike" for two days instead of one. The development of greatest importance is the act of the Palestine National Party in associating itself whole-heartedly with the arrangements of its rival the Arab Executive. It has issued "strike manifestoes" of its own, which are in no way behind those of the more recalcitrant Arabs in bitterness and hostility of tone. Both parties have urged the organising of local committees to make the "strike" more widespread and impressive, and it seems quite obvious that, within certain limits, the "strike" will be far more thorough than any previous attempts to adopt this manner of political protest.

The "Strike."

The earlier idea of the Arab Executive was so to organise things that wherever Lord Balfour travelled in Palestine, throughout the entire period of his visit, he should wander in an atmosphere of "strike," and that all Arab towns and districts which it was known that he was about to visit should be warned in advance. The Government, however, has not been considerate enough to announce any plan as to Lord Balfour's movements; it has done nothing more than recommend that he be not worried with delegations and the like. Therefore the Arab Executive has withdrawn its previous scheme, and is concentrating on the one day "peaceful protest." It recommends the observance of "Balfour Visitation Day" as a day of gloom and mourning. Black ties will be worn and black hangings exposed from windows and roofs.

As in Egypt, the most responsive elements in the community to such appeals to take part in "strike" protests are the lawyers and (so the Arabs hope) schoolboys—at least the former have given notice to the Chief Justice that they propose to abstain from attendance at the Law Courts, and there is much talk in the Arab Press about the school children playing their part. One is anxious to see whether the Government's Arab employees will join the strikers. They have never done so before. Hitherto such "strikes" have been confined to shopkeepers and garry-drivers. These last will be sorely tempted to suppress their political grievances at the height of the tourist season.

Arabs with Arab Executive.

Protests by Arabs against the Arab Executive's action have been few and more or less negligible. The *Lisan el-Arab* has argued the futility of it all, and the probable harm that it will do to the Arab cause in the mind of the outer world; and the *Mirât esh-Sharq* at first protested against the Manifesto as a flaw in the East's unblemished reputation for hospitality. But the latter paper, the organ of the National Party, has now fallen into line with the majority.

King Ferdinand of Roumania is suffering from phlebitis of the right leg and will have to take a complete rest for some time.

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BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE AND THE MANDATE.

By ERNEST RICHMOND.

(*Continued from page* 331.)

[The following article is extracted from a long essay, the preliminary part of which Mr. Richmond devoted to a comparison of the mandate for Palestine (Command Paper 1785) with the White Paper (Command 1700). His purpose is "to expose discrepancies, to refer to actual consequences, to indicate future possibilities, to suggest the cause of anomalies and their remedy." Although we do not agree with Mr. Richmond's views, we think them well worthy of attention.—Ed.]

The Articles summarised above provide an interesting comment on that part of Article 2 which demands the development of self-governing institutions and the safeguarding of the civil rights of the inhabitants, as well as on Article 3, which demands the encouragement "so far as circumstances may permit of local autonomy."

It is not said whether the self-governing institutions which are to be developed are Jewish or Arab, nor whether the local autonomy which is to be encouraged "so far as circumstances may permit" is the autonomy of a country which is Arab in the main with a small proportion of Jews or a country which has become Jewish with a small proportion of Arabs.

The reader who knows Palestine to be an Arab country and desires that no injustice should be done to the Arabs may read these phrases in one sense; while to the reader who believes that Palestine ought to be a Jewish country and hopes it may become so these phrases are equally comforting. If anyone should be tempted to interpret these phrases as meaning that the Mandatory is to busy herself with pushing forward the day of Arab self-government in Palestine—that is to say, the day of self-government by the present inhabitants or their descendants—he has only to bear in mind the Articles 4, 6, 7, 11, 22, and 23, which have already been summarised, to rid himself of his illusion; for these Articles are plainly opposed to any such conclusion. The local autonomy cannot be, then, the autonomy of the present population. It is not their autonomy which the Mandatory is to encourage. It is clearly the autonomy of another kind of population which the passage of years and the activities of an administration facilitating Jewish immigration will, as it may have been hoped by the drafters, bring to Palestine.

Article 28 of the mandate is another interesting Article. It is worth while to quote it:—

> In the event of the termination of the mandate hereby conferred on the Mandatory, the Council of the League of Nations shall make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary for safeguarding in perpetuity, under guarantee of the League, the rights secured by Articles 13 and 14,* and shall use its influence for securing under the guarantee of the League that the Government of Palestine will fully honour the financial obligations legitimately incurred by the administration of Palestine during the period of the mandate, including the rights of public servants to pensions and gratuities.

Note that the "administration of Palestine" becomes, on the termination of the mandate, the "Government of Palestine." We know from the preamble that, under the mandate, the Mandatory is entrusted with two duties; one positive and constructional in character, and the other negative: the first to give effect to the Balfour Declaration in favour of establishing a national home for the Jews in Palestine; the second to do nothing prejudicial to the civil and religious rights of the Arab population of Palestine. Article 28 contemplates, as we have seen, the termination of the mandate and the establishment of a Government of Palestine; it contemplates the period of tutelage to be over; a national home for the Jews to have been established; the Mandatory's task to have been accomplished; and the Mandatory, having fulfilled her appointed mission, to have retired, leaving behind an established Government, a Government which will have developed from the administrative organism at present known as the "administration of Palestine." And from what kind of administration will that Government have developed? It will have developed from an administration which is imagined to have devoted itself for a number of years (time has still to show how many) to co-operating with a Jewish Agency, to facilitating Jewish immigration, to encouraging the close settlement of Jews on the land, to developing by arrangement with the Jewish agency the natural resources of the country.

It is clear that such an administration, "British" though it might have been called up to the moment of the Mandatory's retirement, would feel no embarrassment in finding itself termed and openly recognised to be what, in point of fact, it now actually is, and what, possibly, it is intended that it shall remain throughout the Mandatory period, essentially Jewish.

The Government of Palestine referred to in Article 28 as coming into being on the termination of the mandate will then, if the intentions of the drafters of the mandate come to fruition, be a Jewish Government, for it must be a Government able and willing to support the structure of the Jewish National Home which is supposed to have been raised and sufficiently consolidated during the period of the mandate. It was doubtless contemplated that on the day which will see the transformation of the "Administration of Palestine" into the "Government of Palestine" it would be possible to say that the Government represented the majority; in other words, the drafters of the mandate expected that by then there would be a Jewish majority in Palestine.

It is clear from the mandate that those who drafted it never contemplated, either immediately or at any future period, an administration representative of the present Arab majority. Mass immigration was to swamp that majority. Till it was swamped an administration calling itself "British," but essentially Jewish in method, in aim, and in its authoritative personnel, was to be in charge. This administration was to be guided by a Mandatory Power whose troops were to overawe and, in case of necessity, to quell any native Arabs who might be so ill-advised as to attempt by force to save Arab Palestine from Jewish absorption and to take into their own hands the management of their country. As soon as the period of danger should have passed, as soon as Jewish power in Palestine should have become sufficiently consolidated by numbers and by organisation, the Mandatory was to withdraw, having accomplished its task, established a Jewish National Home and set up a Jewish Government for its preservation. That is clearly enough the task of the Mandatory as envisaged by the drafters of the mandate. Compare that task with the task of the Mandatory as described in the White Paper: To enable the Jews to found in Palestine their home and to enable some of them, within the limits fixed by the numbers and the interests of the present population, to come to Palestine in

* These Articles refer to the rights connected with the Holy Places.

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order to help by their resources and efforts to develop the country to the advantage of all its inhabitants. How humble, how plaintive, and how benevolent it sounds, and how widely different from the Mandatory's task so clearly implied in the mandate!

The essential difference between the task of the Mandatory as described in the mandate and the task as described in the White Paper is that the first is to make of Palestine a National Home for the Jews, to subordinate the Arab population, to supplant them by a population preponderatingly Jewish, and to establish a Government of a character, if not wholly Jewish at least preponderatingly so; while the task so apologetically described in the White Paper is not to make of Palestine a National Home, but to make *in* Palestine a National Home, not to subordinate or supplant the Arab population, language, or culture, and to give to all citizens of Palestine the juridical status of Palestinian, and no other juridical status. On the same page (18) as that on which appears this description of British intentions in Palestine the White Paper states:—

> It has been observed with satisfaction "that at a meeting of the Zionist Congress, held in September, 1921, a resolution was passed expressing as the official statement of Zionist aims" the determination of the Jewish people to live with the Arab people on terms of unity and mutual respect, and together with them to make the common home into a flourishing community, the upbuilding of which may assure to each of its peoples an undisturbed national development.

This "undisturbed" National development is, apparently, to proceed in spite of the inconvenience that neither Jews nor Arabs are to have any juridical status as Jews or as Arabs. Jews are to be of Palestinian nationality; Arabs are to be of Palestinian nationality, neither are to be of any other nationality; at the same time, Jews are to develop (undisturbed) nationally as Jews, and Arabs (equally undisturbed) are to develop nationally as Arabs.

Whatever may be the meaning of this, a few points are clear.

The British Government's interpretation of the Balfour Declaration and the British Policy in Palestine which results from that interpretation are inconsistent with the course Great Britain is bound to follow under the mandate. The course Great Britain is bound to follow under the mandate is also incompatible with the fulfilment of her promise to the Sherif of Mecca.

Thus the acceptation by the British Government of the mandate in its present form involved breaking a promise made in favour of Arab independence; improperly extending the meaning of a promise made to the Nationalist Jews; usurping the national rights of the population of Palestine; establishing over that population an administration not only unrepresentative, but coercive in its conception and in its character; violating one of the main principles for which England and the League of Nations are supposed to stand.

Among the results of accepting the mandate in its present form are the following:—A state of disagreement with our former ally, the Sherif of Mecca; the refusal of the Arabs of Palestine to recognise the validity of the terms of the mandate; their refusal to accept or collaborate in operating the "Constitution" which His Majesty's Government have elaborated for Palestine—a Constitution which the Arabs regard as a bogus Constitution because made *à priori* by foreigners instead of proceeding from the people it concerns—as an expression of their lives, traditions, and habits of thought, as a reality that is first lived, tried, and proved, then crystallised into words in the form of a written Constitution; their refusal to recognise the legality of the present administration and of its enactments, with the result that Palestine has to be administered by a foreign bureaucracy able to maintain its position, not through any real sympathy with, or support from, the inhabitants of the country, but only by superior physical force supplied and paid for, for the most part, by Great Britain.

The Arabic-speaking population forms 86 per cent. of the people of Palestine and claims, in virtue of this fact and in virtue of the promise made in favour of their independence, an effective voice in shaping the destinies of their country. Whether they are articulate individually or through a few is of no importance. The claim made on their behalf and based on facts is a reality and cannot be ignored.

The grounds of the opposition of the Arabic-speaking population are to be found in the facts that the terms of the mandate imply the breaking of the promise made in their favour, that those terms impose on the administration the obligation of giving preference to a minority, that the personnel in the administration is such as to support the view that (in spite of the promises to the Sherif of Mecca, in spite also of the idea of equality inherent in the Balfour Declaration an expressly declared in the White Paper to be the interpretation placed by His Majesty's Government on that Declaration) the intention of His Majesty's Government is to adhere to the provisions of the mandate as their guide in all matters relating to the form, methods, and aims to be adopted by the Palestine administration and to deny to the inhabitants any real and effective voice in the affairs of their country.

The people of Palestine assume (and the terms of the mandate justify them in assuming) that their political rights are being denied them in the supposed interests of Jewish Nationalism. They regard (and the conduct of the Palestine administration justifies them in regarding) the maintenance of their political rights as a condition essential to their prosperity and to the peaceful development of their country, a condition upon which depends the safeguarding of their interests, economic as well as cultural. The terms of the mandate, the Constitution which resulted from those terms, the acts of the Palestine administration and of the Colonial Office in denying to the people of the country opportunities that are accorded to the Jews have confirmed them in these opinions.

They are not to be persuaded that the restrictions placed upon an effective exercise by them of their own rights in their own country are due to the benevolent wisdom of the Mandatory Power; to the desire of that Power to assume, in the interests of the people themselves, responsibilities which, at a later stage of political evolution, could be safely entrusted to the people, but which at the present moment must, in their own interests, be withheld from them. That argument carries no weight and no conviction. They reply that under the Turkish régime the Arabs of Palestine possessed, in their Administrative Councils, considerable administrative power; that through their elected Representative in Constantinople they had their share of a wider influence, legislative and political. To be told, under the British, that they are capable of exercising power only in a very

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minor degree is to be told what they see no reason for believing, more especially when they see the British in Iraq conferring a measure of real power upon people who are no more advanced and experienced politically than themselves.

The argument, then, that it is for their own good that power is withheld from them is regarded as a subterfuge, as a specious and insincere protestation concealing an intention to delay granting political rights to the people of Palestine until the day when that people is for the most part Jewish. That, shortly, is the present position. It may be described as a deadlock. What of the future?

(To be concluded.)

THE ROYAL EGYPTIAN LEGATION.

On the occasion of the birthday of King Fuad I. of Egypt, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, was At Home at Claridge's Hotel to the Egyptian colony in London and to certain friends of Egypt. The Egyptian flag was flying over Claridge's Hotel, and the salons were decorated with the Egyptian national colours, and several portraits of the King of Egypt were displayed in the places of honour. Claridge's Band entertained the guests with an Oriental musical programme, opening with the Egyptian National Anthem.

[Owing to pressure upon our space, a fuller account of the celebrations is held over until next week.]

THE NATIONAL FETE DAY OF GREECE.

The National Fête Day of Greece and the first anniversary of the founding of the Greek Republic was celebrated in London last Sunday.

At the Greek Cathedral of St. Sophia, in Moscow Road, Bayswater, a special service was held in the morning. Among those present were M. George V. Mélas, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, the personnel of the Legation, the Greek Consul-General, the staff of the Consulate, and members of the Greek Naval Commission, all in uniform. There was also present a large number of members of the colony. Subsequently the Chargé d'Affaires held a reception at the Legation, 51, Upper Brook Street, which was largely attended.

A large programme of inquiries into the malarial conditions prevailing in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, and eventually Turkey and Asia Minor, Sicily, Corsica, and Spain, is now being prepared by the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations Health Organisation.

It is officially stated at Athens, says *The Times*, that M. Caclamanos has postponed his departure for Belgrade to continue the negotiations for a Yugoslav-Greek treaty until after the Greek Easter (April 19). The postponement is ascribed to the preoccupation of the Yugoslav Government with internal questions.

Dr. Kennedy, the chief administrator in Greece of the Imperial War Relief Fund and the Save the Children Fund, has received a letter from the Greek Prime Minister conveying the deep gratitude of the Greek Government and people to these organisations and to the British people for the aid given to the refugees from Turkey during the past two and a half years.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Shah of Persia returned last week to Paris from Monte Carlo.

The Persian Prime Minister, says a Reuter message from Teheran, opened on March 25 the first wireless station erected in Persia.

The 1st Battalion, the East Lancashire Regiment, which proceeded to Egypt during the recent crisis, has been ordered back to Malta. The move will be completed by April 8.

The first anniversary of the proclamation of the Greek Republic, which coincided with Independence Day, was celebrated in Athens on March 25 by a service in the Cathedral, followed by a review.

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, who has been advising the Greek Government as to the reorganisation of their Navy, left Athens for London last Friday.

Sir Basil Blackett, Indian Finance Member, and Lady Blackett, Sir Henry Wheeler, Governor of Bihar and Orissa, and Lady Wheeler, and the Maharaja of Jodhpur last week sailed for England from Bombay.

The senior European and Egyptian members of the Mixed Court of Appeal last Friday presented Sir Maurice Amos, the retiring Judicial Adviser to the Government of Egypt, with a gold watch, with a suitable inscription, on behalf of the mixed magistracy.

In a written reply to Captain Wedgwood Benn, Mr. Ormsby-Gore states that the Turkish Petroleum Company will pay royalties based on output to the Iraq Government, but it is not comtemplated that any direct relief will thus be afforded to the Imperial Exchequer.

The Mosul Commission appointed by the League of Nations to consider the question of boundaries, arrived in Beyrout last Friday on their return to Europe for Syria, where they will prepare their report. This will be presented at the next meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva in June.

The robbers who attacked the Eastern Transport Co.'s motor convoy on March 5 and fatally wounded the wife of the French Vice-Consul here, were recently arrested 200 miles from the scene of the outrage by Iraq mounted police, and taken to Ramadi. The property stolen from the passengers has been recovered.

King Faisal held a reception last Saturday night at the Palace in honour of the arrival in Baghdad of the British Ministers (Sir Samuel Hoare and Mr. Amery), who were presented to His Majesty. The High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, and all the members of the Iraq Cabinet were present, with a large number of British officials and Iraqi notables.

The texts of the Treaty of Alliance between Great Britain and Iraq, signed in Baghdad on October 10, 1922; the Protocol to the Treaty, signed in Baghdad, on April 30, 1923; and the subsidiary Agreements, signed in Baghdad on March 25, 1924, the ratifications of which were exchanged on December 19, 1924, have been published as a White Paper (Cmd. 2370).

The energetic campaign carried on abroad against Yugoslavia, with the intention of proving that she, and she alone, was responsible for the Serajevo murder and the Great War, has induced the Yugoslav Government, states the *Morning Post* Belgrade correspondent, to publish a book containing documentary proof of Serbia's guiltlessness in the matter.

Mr. T. G. Dyson, chairman of the London Private Fire Brigades Association and vice-president of the National Fire Brigades Association, is undertaking a visit to the principal fire brigades of Algiers, Egypt, Arabia, India, Burma, Straits Settlements, the Treaty Ports of China, Japan, and Canada, with a view especially of impressing the advantages of the formation of private or works and factory fire brigades.

Mrs. Austen Chamberlain, with her two children, arrived in Athens on March 25 in the "Meteor" from Palestine. She was met at Phaleron by Lady Cheetham, wife of the British Minister, by M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, and by a representative of the Premier. Mrs. Chamberlain stayed at the Legation, where M. Caclamanos was invited to meet her at luncheon. The British Minister gave a dinner in honour of Mrs. Chamberlain the same evening, at which the Premier, the French Minister, and Professor Andreadis were present.

A public celebration of the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem will be held in London at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2, next Thursday (April 2), at 8.15 p.m., under the joint auspices of the English Zionist Federation and the Campaign Committee of the Keren Hayesod. Rabbi Prof. Sir Hermann Gollancz will be in the chair, and the speakers will include Sir Martin Conway, M.P., Prof. S. Alexander, Rabbi Dr. Samuel Daiches, Dayan Dr. A. Feldman, and Mr. Philip Guedalla. A film will be shown giving a pictorial view of Jerusalem and the building of the University. Admission will be free.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 2, 1925 (New Style).
March 20, 1925 (Old Style).
Ramadan 8, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Nisan 8, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Dunsany has returned to 66, Cadogan Square, from Egypt.

Viscount and Viscountess Exmouth are at present on a visit to Cairo.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir have left for Spain and Morocco for a month's trip.

Lord and Lady Swaythling have returned to 28, Kensington Court, from India.

The Earl and Countess of Reading will arrive in London from India on April 23.

Moukbil Bey, Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy in London, has taken 43, Park Lane.

Sir Felix and Miss Evelyn Schuster have returned from India to 48, Cadogan Place, S.W.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught will return to England on April 11 from their tour in India.

M. Nicolas Mishu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation in London, returned last week to 4, Cromwell Place, from Paris.

The Roumanian Minister returned from Paris and Geneva to his residence, 50, Grosvenor Street, last week, and has resumed his official duties.

Mr. A. G. McCorquodale has returned to 25, Berkeley Square, and Mr. M. S. McCorquodale to 7, John Street, Mayfair, from Egypt and the Sudan.

Sir Maurice Amos, the retiring Judicial Adviser, and Lady Amos, left Egypt for England on March 24. Judge J. H. Percival is acting as Judicial Adviser until Sir Maurice's term expires at the end of May, and it is expected that he will then be appointed his successor.

The King has given Mr. Geoffrey Edmund William Hitchcock, B.Sc., Director of Works, Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, authority to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered.

General Munteanu, Permanent Under-Secretary to the Roumanian Ministry of War; General Hentziesco, Director of Aviation; Colonel Beroniade, Director of the Air Forces; M. Lapteu, Counsellor of the Legation; and Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché, were the guests of the Roumanian Minister in London at luncheon on March 24.

On the occasion of the anniversary of King Fuad's birthday the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr. Charles Hubert Montgomery, called on Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, at Claridge's Hotel, to convey the good wishes of His Majesty King George V. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey immediately returned the visit to the Vice-Marshal at the Foreign Office.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. A. E. Salim has been appointed an Attaché at the Egyptian Legation in Washington.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. B de Satgé, C.M.G., D.S.O., to his personal staff, as Ceremonial and Reception Secretary.

Major-General William H. S. Nickerson, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., M.B., the new major-general of the R.A.M.C., whose recent employment has been that of directing the medical services in Egypt on the staff of Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Haking, has seen service, among other places, in West Africa, Egypt, India, and Turkey.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred recently, at the age of 78, of Major-General Sir Charles Holled Smith, K.C.M.G., C.B. He served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, when he was at Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir. Attached to the Egyptian Army, Sir Charles was with the Sudan Frontier Field Force in command of a brigade, and participated in the action at Gamaizah in 1888. He commanded the Tokar Expeditionary Force in 1891, being then Governor-General of the Red Sea Littoral and Commandant at Suakin.

We much regret to record the death of Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief of India. His distinguished career included service in many Eastern lands—Burma, the Sudan, and Egypt. He graduated in many hard schools, and gained distinction in them all. What he did on the Western Front towards winning the War, and, after 1920, in reorganising the Army in India, are too well-known to need recapitulation here. He leaves no children, and the peerage becomes extinct. The baronetcy passes to his brother, Colonel Alfred Rawlinson, who, it will be remembered, was captured by the Nationalist Turks when he was on special intelligence duty with the Army of the Black Sea, and suffered imprisonment at their hands in 1920-21.

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THE POSITION IN EGYPT.

The present position in Egypt has to be regarded with considerable misgiving, if only because it tends to prolong an indeterminate state of affairs. Ziwar Pasha, the Prime Minister, has shown strength of character in meeting the Zaghloulist challenge without any hesitation; but it is evident that he and his colleagues have an uphill battle to fight in persuading the country to recognise the realities of the situation. In tendering his resignation to King Fuad, and in a second letter, when his resignation was not accepted, asking for the dissolution of the Chamber, Ziwar Pasha shrewdly lays emphasis on the fact that Zaghloul Pasha, in resigning the Premiership, admitted that his policy had brought calamity upon the country, and that further misfortunes could be avoided only by his abandonment of office. His election, therefore, as President of the new Assembly by a large majority was a clear indication that the Chamber as constituted was prepared to persist in a policy which, on the showing of its author, had brought calamity on Egypt. In view of that election, for the purposes of which a number of deputies who had been returned by an anti-Wafd vote immediately enrolled themselves on Zaghloul Pasha's side, the Government has some ground for its contention that the attitude of the Assembly was opposed to the intentions of the country. It proposes, therefore, to submit once more to the electorate the question of the right policy for Egypt. That it should find it necessary in the interval to elaborate a new electoral law is a confession of the difficulties in its way. There was no reason why Egypt, which as a whole is admittedly backward in education, should suddenly develop the qualifications necessary for the successful application of constitutional government; but a revision of the electoral law has the appearance of a reactionary step. In all the circumstances, however, it seems right that the problem of educating the people gradually to their responsibilities should be grappled with at an early stage in the country's constitutional history. Perhaps the most ominous feature of Egyptian elections has been the readiness with which intimidation has been tried on the one hand and reacted to on the other. A people that sets no more store on its democratic institutions than to allow them to serve a tyranny stands to lose nothing, but to gain much, from a restricted franchise.

The triumph of Zaghloul Pasha constitutes no new feature in the recent history of Egypt. His hold on the great mass of the people has never been questioned; but it was hoped in British, as well as in some Egyptian circles, that his influence would wane more rapidly than it has, as a result of his inept handling of his country's affairs. What seems to have happened at the last General Election is that, becoming anxious about its prospects, the Wafd induced a certain number of its followers to secure election as anti-Wafd candidates on the understanding that they should transfer their allegiance back again as soon as Parliament met. The ruse, which in itself goes a long way towards confirming the allegations of sharp practices brought against Zaghloul Pasha in his conduct of the elections when in power, was entirely successful, but should hardly be possible of repetition. No party capable of any organisation will allow itself to be victimised twice by such a trick, and the first concern of each group of the anti-Wafd *bloc* should be to secure candidates whose political morality is above suspicion. It is evident that the immediate dissolution of the Chamber has disconcerted the Zaghloulists. Their leader declares that the Constitution has been violated, and claims that he ought to have been consulted in the formation of the new Ministry. His own countrymen, however, have not found him any easier to work with than have the British. When unpopular measures have to be faced Zaghloul Pasha escapes from office, but as soon as the evil effects of his policy have been obscured he reasserts his influence to paralyse the Administration. Such tactics are possible only in a backward country, where, from physical fear or from the lack of self-respect that education gives, large numbers of the people have no other political aim than to be on the winning side. Zaghloul Pasha has shown no disposition to face the realities of the situation brought about by his failure to co-operate with Great Britain. He repudiates responsibility for the murder of the late Sirdar, of which he has never been accused, but he seems incapable of understanding that the Wafd's anti-British campaign, the assassination of Sir Lee Stack, and the British ultimatum have all followed in a perfectly logical sequence as the result of his own policy and words. He has given no indication that he is likely to change the tenour of his remarks, and consequently those of his countrymen who feel a sense of responsibility in the matter cannot bring themselves to contemplate his return to power, lest worse befall Egypt. At least, they mean to try every legitimate device to make the Egyptian people realise that Zaghloul Pasha, for all that he was able to achieve at the outset by his agitation, has now become a source of danger to the country.

In the face of this controversy between two sections of public opinion in Egypt, Great Britain can do nothing beyond waiting on events. It is to the good that there are those in the country who appreciate the folly of Zaghloul Pasha and the danger of his methods. The British policy must of necessity be to hold a watching brief, to give such encouragement as it can to Ziwar Pasha's Government, or at least to refrain from making its position more difficult than it is already, and to show the Egyptian people that good will and genuine friendliness are not incompatible with a firm attitude on matters outside the immediate welfare of Egypt, however loudly their vital relationship to that welfare be proclaimed. There is certainly no need for pessimism at this stage. Last year Zaghloul Pasha had a Chamber from which opposition had been practically eliminated. Elections held a few months later revealed a country apparently prepared to reduce his hold upon it by forty per cent.; but the intention was stultified by an electioneering trick. Not until the next elections are held and the result of a further trial of strength between the two sections is known can it be necessary to adopt the attitude that the Egyptian electorate is unequal to the task imposed upon it. The prolongation of an intermediate state of affairs is to be regretted, as Great Britain has no interest in seeing the progress of Egypt arrested by political uncertainty. The time for heroic measures has not yet come, and it is to be hoped that the next elections will prove that there is to be no need for them.

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THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AT JERUSALEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

For nearly a year a familiar feature in the Jerusalem streets has been a motor-bus service labelled "Post Office to the University." The Post Office we knew, and the bus label was inferential proof of the University's existence. But actually (like very many Palestinian schemes) the University existed more in faith than in fact. Last December we had the formal opening of the "Institute of Jewish Studies," which was declared to be "affiliated" to the Hebrew University. Many months earlier than this there had been equipped a "Biochemical Laboratory," under the direction of Professor Fodor, who has since been engaged there in his own research work and in the training of his laboratory staff. A "Microbiological Department" is in course of preparation, and this will be opened many months hence by its director, a certain Professor Rosenthal. So far, that is all that exists of the actual academic part of the Hebrew University.

The visitor who takes the motor-bus from the Post Office with the intention of visiting the University will be carried to the top of Mount Scopus—the northern extension of the Mount of Olives, where Titus and his legions encamped overlooking the doomed city of Jerusalem. The visitor will have the British Military Cemetery on his left as the road turns south at the crest of the hill. Two-thirds of the way towards Government House (formerly the German Empress Augusta Victoria Endowment) is what was once the country house of Sir John Gray Hill. Here the motor-bus stops. This is the famous Hebrew University. A porch leads into a small courtyard, and straight ahead is the block of buildings in course of extension, rebuilding, and adaptation. The upper storey, crowned by a brazen dome, has some thirty rooms, large and small, highly equipped (we are told) for the most technical branches of Biochemistry. The lower story is to be devoted to the Microbiological section. At present it serves to accommodate the classes of the Institute of Jewish Studies, which has yet no home of its own. This Institute alone is carrying on as a *teaching* concern. It boasts some hundred and fifty students all told, in one or other of its courses of study. For the moment there are only three professors at work—Dr. Max L. Margolis (borrowed for the term from Dropsie College, Philadelphia), lecturing on Biblical text and versions and Elementary Greek; Dr. Michael Guttmann (also borrowed for the winter), lecturing on subjects connected with the Talmud; and Dr. Samuel Klein, the Rabbi of a small Hungarian Jewish community, a recognised authority on Palestinian topography in the light of early rabbinical writings. Dr. Klein is the only professor of the Institute who is likely to remain permanently on the Hebrew University staff. Each of these three professors conducts a "seminar" for more advanced students of their subjects, and a course of popular lectures open to anybody who takes the trouble to register his name. A fair number of the Jewish workmen engaged in building the new quarters are regular students. All courses are free.

It will thus be seen that in these very small beginnings the Hebrew University is only working along two lines—advanced research work and popular lectures (of the type known in England as "University Extension Lectures"). There has been no attempt whatever to create the framework of a machinery that will or that may ultimately minister to the needs of those who wish to take an ordinary undergraduate course, culminating in a degree of some sort. And it is the intention of those who are primarily concerned with the future of the Hebrew University to develop exclusively along such lines as these—with paid Professors and unpaid Fellows (promising graduates of foreign Universities), carrying out their own researches on the top of Mount Scopus, publishing learned theses in the soon-to-be-set-up Jerusalem Hebrew University Press, and emerging at not too frequent intervals to deliver free, popular lectures to an admiring but not too academic audience.

A component part of the University is "The Hebrew University and Jewish National Library." This is already huge (85,000 volumes) and growing apace. At present it is housed in a most inadequate building in the Jewish quarter of the town. Sufficient money is, however, available to begin a proper library building on Mount Scopus. There is a botanical section of the University, temporarily attached to the Agricultural Experimental Station at Tel-Aviv, and supported by the Jewish National Fund. The "Jewish Institute" will, next term, begin one or two more courses, notably one on Hebrew Literature, the "chair" for which has been specially created and endowed for the benefit of Mr. Chaim N. Bialik, a famous modern Hebrew poet. During Lord Balfour's visit the foundation is to be laid of a Physics and Mathematical Laboratory, to be called the "Balfour-Einstein Institute."

Such is the present scope of the Jerusalem Hebrew University which Lord Balfour was to inaugurate yesterday, April 1. One doubts whether any other institution with such small beginnings to show has ever organised for itself such widespread and successful propaganda. The local Jewish Press daily issues lists of the famous names of statesmen, scholars, rabbis, and American Crœsuses and benefactors, all coming to shed their glamour or to bask in the glamour of the opening ceremony. Such an affair is, naturally, bulking very large in the little life of Palestine; and, to the local Jews, all the exasperated preparations of the Arab malcontents to show Lord Balfour exactly what they think of him and his Declaration, appear to be, and are dubbed, mere impertinence. A committee of arrangements has been set up by the University's local "Curatorium" (as they call their Hebdomadal Council), and they have hard work to hold at bay the thousands of applicants for admission to the opening ceremony. A special "amphitheatre" is being arranged on the south-east slope of Mount Scopus, behind the University buildings, where the "opening exercises" (the chairman of the "Curatorium" is an American, and so we are given all the strange American University technical vocabulary) will be held. It is to accommodate 4,000 spectators, though the half will have to stand.

It is perhaps scarcely fair to emphasise unduly the immense contrast between the very embryonic "University" and the magnitude of the propaganda and the scale of the opening ceremony. The University is to become the "cultural" centre of Palestine, which is itself to be the cultural and

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spiritual centre (with adequate economic and political bulwarks) of the entire Jewish race. And most of the Jews the world over have still to be convinced of their duty to set up such a centre. It is not a project which holds out hopes of material profit, and financial support has come in all too slowly during the seven years which have elapsed since the idea of the Hebrew University first made a big bid for publicity with the laying of the foundation-stone by Dr. Weizmann soon after the capture of Jerusalem. The project deserves to succeed and to arouse the sympathetic attention of the Gentile world. It is hard to see how it can in any way do political harm to Arab aspirations; whereas the more idealistic of the Jews are convinced of its power to revivify the spiritual life and powers of their race, which have been dissipated and wasted, or even exploited by the Gentiles, during the two thousand years of exile. The Gentile may find it hard to grasp just what this "spirtual power-house" of Jewry will achieve, but sufficient has been said and done about it to arouse the curiosity, and nothing cheers the Jew more than a little Gentile sympathy.

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.

THE YEMEN INFANTRY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—My attention has been called to a short paragraph in your paper, dated February 19, on the subject of the Yemen Infantry. It was a Reuter message from Delhi, and dated 13th idem. Let me say it is quite erroneous in its reasons given for the disbandment of this corps. The Arab regiment has never been "proved inefficient from a military point of view." In the first place, it has never been "proved" in the sense of a "baptism of fire," but the Italians, who for many years have recruited from this same source, and who employed the men in their campaign against the Turks in Tripoli in 1911-12, were loud in their praise of their fire-discipline, considering them superior to their own Abyssinian levies. As a regiment, whether at Sheikh Othman, their headquarters, or in the islands of Perim or Kamaran on outpost duty, the 1st Yemen Infantry has proved its efficiency to the hilt. The smartness of the men and their *esprit de corps* were remarkable, and to this any officer of the crack Indian regiments who have served in Aden will testify.

As to the second remark of Reuter's Delhi correspondent, it may be summed up as puerile. Does no Indian Sepoy ever run amok? No, the regiment has been disbanded primarily for reasons of economy. It is a case of penny-wise and pound-foolish. By this act we have lost our main touch with the interior, have incidentally created a host of well-trained discontents, and given to Italy this field to exploit without a rival. It is a political blunder, and reflects discredit on its authors. I know that at one time the War Office was keen to raise a second battalion, and this fact will dissipate the rumour of the corps' inefficiency. As one who knows the Yemen, and is still in close touch with its people, I trust you will insert this letter.—I am, etc., H. F. Jacob (Lieut.-Colonel).

137, Victoria Street, Westminster.

[We take this opportunity of expressing regret that the misleading paragraph, which, we fear, will have given offence to the British officers who raised the regiment and have been in charge of it for eight years, should have appeared in our columns, and can only plead that one is not usually in error in assuming, howsoever one's belief may be to the contrary, the accuracy of Reuter messages. As for reflecting upon British officers, it was the farthest thing from our thoughts. Anyone who knows the record of British-trained native troops, whether they are Assyrians, Sudanese, Nigerians, or of any other part of the world, recognises, and is proud of, the fact that the British officer can make soldiers of almost any material.—Ed.]

NEWS FROM ABYSSINIA.

We learn from a correspondent in Abyssinia that that country is likely to be a "feature" of the Press during the next few weeks. During February Mrs. "Rosita Forbes" made, together with a cinematograph operator, a stay of ten days in the capital, and it is understood that the Court and the town were extensively photographed. These two visitors were followed by an American representative of the "International News Agency."

Our correspondent states further that shortly after the return of Ras Tafari from Europe to his own country, certain improvements were undertaken. Progressive effort was not, however, sustained, and it appears that the Abyssinians have now fallen back on their old ways.

Mr. John Parsons, 92, an Indian Mutiny veteran, was buried at Exmouth with military honours on March 24.

The influence of Miss Gertrude Bell, Political Officer at Baghdad, is making itself felt in the surrounding country, says the *Daily Telegraph*. Not only has a club for Moslem and other women been opened at Baghdad, but Persian women, under Mme. Dolatabadi, have established a "Persian Feminist Review," and are doing their utmost to abolish sweating among women and children carpet weavers.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Sudan's Trade in 1924.

The statistics for the trade of the Sudan in 1924 make a very interesting showing. The value of the imports was £E5,474,910, as compared with £E4,669,004, an increase of 17.26 per cent., while in the case of the exports there was a rise of 38.24 per cent., the figures being £E3,541,866, as against £E2,562,091. The value of the total trade was £E9,382,104, as compared with £E7,496,095, an increase of 25.16 per cent. Great Britain is easily first in the list of countries trading with the Sudan; 61.7 per cent. of the Sudan's exports were taken by this country, which also supplied 31.7 per cent. of the Sudan's imports. Egypt leads as regards the latter category with 35.1 per cent., and is second with 14.5 per cent. in the list of countries taking the Sudan's exports.

A Potential Market.

The lesson to be learnt from the figures of the Sudan's trade is obvious. The principal expansion which has taken place has been in the exports, due, of course, to a very great increase in the value of the cotton exported. But the Sudan is as yet only commencing cotton production (if one looks at the matter in the light of the broad schemes in view), and while cotton is not likely to be maintained at a high price indefinitely, it is clear that if a few thousand bales of cotton can bulk so largely in the export trade, the Sudan ought in the near future to have a very large favourable balance of trade. The rise in the exports can only mean the gradual development in the Sudan of a market for imported goods as the general standard of comfort of the inhabitants rises.

The Hague Judgment.

Considerable interest has naturally been aroused by the judgment given by the International Court of Justice at The Hague in regard to concessions granted by the Turkish authorities in Jerusalem to a Greek subject, M. Mavromatis, for the supply of electric light and power, etc., to that city. A concession for the development of the electric resources of Palestine has been granted to M. Rutenberg, the view of the authorities being that this step would be most conducive to the rapid utilisation of the country's resources. Brief reports of the judgment state that the Court found that the Mavromatis concession was valid, and that the right granted to expropriate other concessions was contrary to the Mandate, but also that no damage to M. Mavromatis has been proved, and that the demand for compensation therefore fails. Until the full report of the judgment is available it will be impossible to tell what the exact effect of the findings may be. As far as the Rutenberg concession is concerned, it is only affected in respect of facilities in Jerusalem, and it will remain to be seen how M. Mavromatis will endeavour to utilise his concession, which up to the present he has evidently not been able to do anything with.

A Yugoslav Loan.

The interesting news is forthcoming that negotiations have been concluded by the Yugoslav State Monopoly with a group of English banks for a loan of £1,000,000. The loan, which is secured on the stocks of tobacco held by the monopoly, is for the purpose of financing the tobacco crop of this year, and it has been arranged on much easier terms than a small loan which was negotiated last year for the same object. Yugoslavia, it may be noted, has only recently begun the sale of leaf tobacco prepared for export, and it has already disposed of considerable quantities to the Czecho-Slovak Tobacco Administration and the Polish State Administration, and the improvement in the terms of the loan may be taken as an indication of the growing importance of tobacco to the Triune Kingdom as well as a reflection of the improvement of the general economic conditions there. Equally interesting is the report of the agreement between Messrs. Blair and Co. and Armstrong Whitworth and Co., Yugoslavia. The Blair concession would have lapsed this week, and it is noteworthy that they have found it desirable to have the co-operation of a British group in the financing and construction of the Adriatic Railway and other projects.

Steaua Romana Oil.

The interesting announcement is forthcoming from the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., that negotiations have been concluded between the Roumanian Government, the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, and the Roumanian, French, and British groups interested therein, thus enabling the Steaua Romana to take the steps necessary to comply with the Mining Law. It has now been allotted 123 hectares of the State oil lands, situated in the best districts of Moreni, which is the richest known oilfield in Roumania, Runcu, and Ochiuri. The last area is a comparatively new field, in which the Industria Romana de Pétrole has recently brought in a well with a production of approximately 3,000 tons of crude oil per day. It is anticipated that the crude oil production of the company will be very largely increased. At present the company's refining capacity is in the neighbourhood of 850,000 tons per annum, and it is not expected that any additional refining capacity will be necessary in the immediate future.

COMMENTATOR.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Roumania has prohibited the exportation of rye and barley.

There were large arrivals of carpets at Constantinople in December from the Caucasus and Persia.

The Constantza City Council has allocated the sum of 3,000,000 lei as a first instalment toward the construction of a municipal theatre.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from March 21 to 27 amounted to 4,650,000 francs, against 3,900,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended March 10 amounted to £E8,929, making the total for the year to date £E338,014.

Duty-free admission into Persia is to be granted for a period of ten years in respect of agricultural and technical machinery. Motor lorries and motor omnibuses are to be entitled to duty-free admission for a period of five years.

The Skoda Engineering Works in Plzen have recently received contracts for the supply of steel cylinders to the French fleet, for the supply of machinery to the Chicago Electricity Works, and brake-wheels for England. The Skoda works now employ some 14,200 workmen and officials.

Coupons due on April 1 from bonds the numbers of which appear on what is known on the Stock Exchange as the Schroder List, and also coupons from bonds stamped by the Roumanian Commissions, may now be presented at the counting-house of Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that notification has recently appeared in the local press requiring makers or holders of milk foods and other nutritive foods for children (whether of foreign or native manufacture) to submit to the Commissariat of Hygiene and Social Assistance, by April 11 at the latest, three samples of the goods, together with the formula for preparing the foods.

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) report that it has received a telegram from Mr. Lewis Hamilton (the company's consulting engineer) stating that oil has been struck in the company's No. 8 well, Gura Oonitei, and that the casing is well into the oil sands. The well is under control, and the necessary connections to the pipe-lines for transporting the production are being completed.

The Assam Railways and Trading Company report that the railway earnings for 1924-25 to the middle of March were Rs.21,76,600, as against Rs.18,78,877 the preceding year, while the output from the colliery was 246,185 tons, against 237,482 tons. The interim dividends on the preference shares and stock of the company were paid on the usual dates. The board has declared an interim dividend on the "B" stock of 3 per cent. (less income-tax).

The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople draws attention to a notification which recently appeared in *La Gazette* (Constantinople) advising persons despatching postal parcels to Turkey to indicate exactly on the Customs Declaration the quality and quantity of the goods contained. Consignees often rely on these declarations for the particulars which they have to present to the Turkish Customs authorities on arrival of the parcels, and a fine is imposed in cases where there is any discrepancy between the importers' declaration and the actual contents.

The London office of the Italian State Railways and State Tourist Department has published particulars of tickets to Italy at reduced rates, which are being issued in connection with the Holy Year, the Sicilian spring season, and the art exhibition in Venice. The reductions vary from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent., according to destination. A ticket, for example, from London to Sicily and back via Paris-Turin-Genoa-Rapello-Pisa-Naples - Palermo - Messina-Florence, etc., covering a distance of over 3,000 miles, costs £14 7s. first and £9 17s. second class.

The death occurred recently at his residence at Epsom of Sir Marshall Reid, C.I.E., an East India merchant, and formerly a member of the Council of India and of the Indian Legislative Council. Sir Marshall, who was 60 years of age, was a son of the late Mr. Daniel Reid, of Glasgow, and was educated at Loretto, and spent many years in the Bombay Company, Limited, of which he became managing director. He was a partner in the firm of Wyer and Hawke, and a director of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the National Bank of India, and the Presidency Bank of Bombay. He served both in the Bombay and the Supreme Legislatures, as chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of the Indian Currency Committee. In 1916 he was appointed to the Council of the Secretary of State for India as a representative of commercial experience in India, but owing to business calls in the City he resigned in 1920. Sir Marshall was knighted in 1916.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange
£1 = 300 dinars
approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East": No. 2.

THE YUGOSLAV ELECTIONS.

Their Political and Economic Importance.

By DR. M. M. STOYADINOVITCH.

The following statement has been given to a correspondent by Dr. M. M. Stoyadinovitch, Minister of Finance :—

It is well known that our State came into existence through the liberation and union of several regions which had formerly been under various foreign Powers. All these regions, and Serbia in particular, suffered very much as a result of the War, so that from its very beginning the Government had very serious economic and financial problems to face. Many proposals were brought forward for the accomplishment of urgent and important reforms, but very few of them were realised, owing to the Parliamentary conditions. Not one political party hitherto has had a solid enough majority to be able to carry out unhindered and peacefully the work of economic reform and the financial ordering of the State. Most of the energy of past Governments has been spent on achieving Parliamentary compromises, which in effect have proved only hindrances to any reforms. Thus only can the fact be explained that now, six years after the liberation and union, there is not a unified taxation system for the whole country, but a number of heterogeneous pre-War systems, peculiar to each province, and terribly complicated by various supplements and changes introduced during and after the War. This disjointed system has made impossible up to the present any equalisation of the burden of taxation throughout the State, and the use of many sources of revenue. Consequently, the balancing of the State Budget has proved a work of almost superhuman effort. Another difficulty is that the financial administration has remained almost as it was formerly in the various provinces.

All this lack of uniformity, which has often entailed embarrassing complications, has proved a great burden in public life. It was a considerable relief to the people, therefore, that the elections of February 8 gave the National *bloc* an indisputable and sufficiently large majority for the present Government to be able to undertake unhindered and resolutely the solution of the most urgent problems. I have already created in the Ministry under my control two Commissions charged with the preparation, as rapidly as possible, of definite Bills, for which the material has long been prepared; one for the reform of our financial legislation, and the other for the reform of the financial administrative service.

These Commissions are formed of the most eminent experts of the kingdom. They are for the most part men who have been working uninterruptedly on these problems for some years, and I hope from their projects to draw up the Bills which I shall submit to Parliament as soon as it meets. I am convinced that these Bills will soon become law. Thus we shall attain our long-felt desire for a reform which will not only have important financial results and put finance on a firm basis, but also, by the reform of the administration, afford our citizens great relief in their dealings with the authorities. This should create a feeling of satisfaction in the nation, and should have also a political effect.

These are the two most important points in my programme for the forthcoming Parliamentary session. Other measures deal with the organisation of agricultural and craft credits, the improvement of communications, and a number of other reforms which will give quite an impetus to national economic life, and thus further promote the stability of the State's finances.

We have had the opportunity of experiencing ourselves the truth of the saying of the great French Finance Minister, Baron Louis, that without good politics good finance is impossible. Our nation has keenly felt that we cannot have serious progress in our economic life without well-ordered internal politics. This is why the nation spoke so decisively at the elections. Its decision, which has given the National *bloc* the possibility of forming a stable Government, means the beginning of a clearer and sounder epoch in the finance of our State.

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CREDIT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Government ceased to borrow from the National Bank as early as 1922, and thus inflation of the paper currency also ceased. On December 31, 1924, the note circulation was 6,001,503,765 dinars, and the amount in circulation has thus remained practically the same for two years. This circumstance, together with the great growth of exports (which in 1924 exceeded imports by 1,317 million dinars), the indisputable balance of State finances, which gave a feeling of general security, and lastly the victory of the present Government at the last elections, caused the dinar to improve on the international markets by 20 per cent. in 1924. At the end of December, 1923, 100 dinars were quoted at 6.50 Swiss francs at Zurich, in December, 1924, at 7.90 on January 1, 1925, at 8, and for more than a month now at an average of 8.50. In New York the dinar has improved during the same period from $1.14 to $1.87 for 100 dinars.

But although the purchasing value of the dinar has risen at home also, nevertheless the money and credit crisis has remained very acute. Credit on good security and short term pays 18 per cent. to 24 per cent., even in the largest banks, while small borrowers pay even double at the small banks. The reason for this extraordinary dearness of credit lies in the sudden economic development of Yugoslavia after the War. At that time business people had unlimited chances for developing their work, and they rushed to set up more and more new factories to start forest and mining enterprises, to build houses, etc. National resources were soon exhausted. Credit could not be obtained at all from abroad, mainly because of certain home and foreign problems which made foreign capitalists fear to invest their money in the Balkans. Inflation ceased. Thus deceived in hopes and expectation of unlimited credit, based on favourable prospects of profit, home industry found itself left in the middle of its work in a very awkward position, which resulted in a serious credit crisis. Thus impelled by circumstances, industry drew into its whirlpool also the majority of the banks of the country, which could not meet the flood of those seeking credit in such difficult times. Thus it came about that many of the banks had their capital tied up in industry. From these circumstances arose the lack of capital and the dearness of credit.

Relief from this crisis is expected from foreign credit through the State Mortgage Bank or some other institutions. The question is being more and more keenly discussed of the business associations obtaining the necessary means for investment and turnover on solid guarantees with the super-guarantee of the State. The enormous wealth exploited by the industry of the country and the large concessions and privileges given by the Government to home industry open possibilities of first-class investment to foreign capital, while the State guarantee gives protection against any risk.

In the interval of awaiting foreign credit the only open sources of credit are the National Bank and the Postal Savings Bank. But the National Bank has more or less exhausted its credit funds, and beyond the 1½ milliard dinars already allotted, it has only certain limited means for further credit. Further, since the National Bank keeps its funds so strictly liquid, it is obvious that no solution of the credit problems of the country can be expected from it.

The Postal Savings Bank has the same difficulty in maintaining its liquidity against the masses of credit seekers. It has become one of the most important credit institutions of the country. Its great liquidity and its unlimited State guarantee for its liabilities make it the favourite institution for the investment of national savings. Its resources grow from day to day. But just because it is the most important cheque institution, and must maintain its liquidity, it is extremely careful in allowing credit. Thus, in spite of the National Bank, the State Mortgage Bank, and the Savings Bank, there are many credit needs still unsatisfied.

Taking into account the general economic prosperity of the country, these credit difficulties are not the signs of weakness but of rapid growth. This growth will be still more encouraged according to the assistance it receives from foreign credit. But even without this, progress will certainly continue, though at a slower pace.

Prof. Milorad Nedeljkovitch,
General Director of the Postal Savings Bank.

FOREIGN TRADE.

The Balance of Trade.

For the first time since the War the foreign trade of Yugoslavia has shown in 1924 a favourable balance. Imports amounted in value to 8,221,743,552 dinars, as compared with 9,538,774,432 dinars, the value of exports, an excess of 1,317,030,880, or 16.02 per cent. in favour of exports. This satisfactory result suggests that the economic life of the country has at last recovered from the evil effects of the War, and has entered upon a normal course once more.

Compared with the previous year, the returns for imports in 1924 were as follow, the figures for 1923 being given in parentheses :—

Items by weight: 1,016,399,963 kilograms (980,529,704); number of pieces, 1,660,580 (1,116,507); items by volume, 211,198 cub. metres (280,586).

In respect of value, the imports of 1924 amounted to 8,221,743,552 dinars, as compared with 8,309,635,472 dinars in 1923. The falling-off in value in the face of a slight increase in weight and quantity can be explained in part by the appreciation of the dinar.

Imports.

The chief articles of import, by weight in metric tons, were as follow, the figures in parentheses representing the value in millions of dinars: Cotton fabrics, 15,046 tons (1,504.7); woollen fabrics, 3,515 (583.8); yarn, 6,595 (414.7); hardware, 29,496 (309.7); machinery and apparatus, 15,441 (267.5); sugar, 20,500 (222.8); coffee, 8,338 (221.0), coal, 333,765 (213.0); raw cotton, 4,969 (157.6); raw hides, 6,512 (157.4); iron, unmanufactured or half-manufactured, 42,439 (125.1); rice, 17,914 (119.7). Other goods in order of the monetary value of the imports were: Transport material, sole leather, electro-technical articles, sheet iron, vegetable oils, petrol, 27,764 tons (101.0); linen and hemp textiles, cotton stockings and gloves, sacks, leather and glass. The total imports amounted to 1,127,686 tons, of a value of 8,221,743,552 dinars, the chief percentages being, cotton fabrics 18.3, woollen fabrics 7.1, yarn 5, hardware 3.8, and machinery 3.2.

Summary of Customs Receipts.

Year.	Imports. Dinars.	Exports. Dinars	Total Dinars.
1924	1,450,150,092 ...	223,129,165 ...	1,673,279,257
1923	1,340,768,744 ...	357,323,469 ...	1,698,092,213
1922	1,017,996,977 ...	125,437,901 ...	1,143,434,878
1921	768,103,984 ...	233,083,240 ...	1,001,187,224
1920	284,447,198 ...	187,709,715 ...	472,156,913
1919	90,624,425 ...	20,885,373 ...	111,509,798

The reduction in the receipts for 1924 is accounted for by the lowering of some export duties and the abolition of others. Receipts from imports showed an increase of 10 per cent.

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AGRARIAN PROBLEMS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Agriculture in one form or another constitutes the principal industry of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Out of a total value of 8,048 million dinars for exports in 1923, agriculture, with its various products (live cattle, 1,466 million dinars; wood, 1,437; cereals and flour, 972; animal products, 676; meat products, 548: fruit, 438; skins, 213; wood products, 190; hops, 118; flax, 100; haricot beans, 77; opium, 51; beverages, 21; potatoes, 19) accounted for 6,332 million dinars, or more than three-quarters of the total exports. The country, however, is handicapped by a variety of different agrarian systems in vogue in the component parts of the State. Individual proprietorship exists side by side with collective ownership, as represented by the *zadruga*. The feudalism and serfdom of the Middle Ages, as well as the Roman colonisation, have left traces which are still visible to-day; scientific and intensive cultivation no less than the most primitive methods, are characteristic of present-day conditions; some of the most fertile districts in Europe abut on the most sterile; some districts are overpopulated, others are only just beginning to receive settlers. Consequently, Yugoslavia's agrarian problem could hardly be more complicated. Any solution can be reached only by the most careful study of the problem in all its aspects. If the peasant is to obtain the best results from his land, he must be guaranteed permanence of occupation, his proprietary rights must be assured, and facilities provided for the development of larger areas of land. Among the drawbacks from which he suffers may be mentioned various forms of servitude and restrictive regulations, which have been a burden on the land for centuries.

In order to bring about a uniform system of peasant proprietorship, a number of problems have to be faced. Among them are the following:—

(1) The reorganisation of the régime of peasant proprietorship in Croatia, Slavonia, Slovenia, and the Voivodina, a régime bound up with that of large estates.

(2) The total suppression of the régime of *kmets* in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and of the *chifchiya* in Macedonia and Old Serbia, a régime resembling the serfdom of the Middle Ages.

(3) The modernisation of the agricultural exploitation of Dalmatia by the suppression of the remnants of the old Roman "colonist" system.

Moreover, agrarian reform will have to take into consideration the following subjects:—

(1) The regrouping of small holdings, especially in Croatia, Slavonia, Slovenia, Serbia, and Dalmatia.

(2) Internal colonisation with a view to relieving congestion in over-populated districts.

(3) The establishment of a new family peasant proprietorship, with a single right of succession, permitting of sound agricultural development. (Such legislation would supersede the three existing widely different systems: (a) That of individual proprietorship with right to equal division; (b) that of individual ownership with the right of inheritance by one heir only; (c) that of the *zadruga*, or family ownership.)

(4) The organisation of agricultural credit.

(5) Agricultural education.

(6) More stable conditions in regard to foreign trade, etc.

In elaborating this subject, M. Milan Ivshitch, Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Zagreb, points out that the solution of these questions is an enormous task calling for mutual co-operation between the State and private initiative. "It requires the aid of lawyers, sociologists, agricultural engineers, economists, surveyors, and financiers, as well as of Parliament and State institutions. Consequently, it would be a great mistake to treat the agrarian problem according to the demands of party politics, with programmes determined more by electoral exigencies than by the principles of a healthy and well-considered agarian policy. How can this end be achieved without violating justice, attacking the most sacred principles of ownership, and causing serious financial, economic, and social consequences to the country? Further, in remedying the errors of the past, new faults must be avoided. Peace and social order in a country are not likely to be promoted by revolutionising its whole economic life. Wise evolution would be the better means, to enable Yugoslavia to prosper in its agricultural policy and to organise a satisfactory administration for the development of intensive cultivation wherever advisable. To this end uncultivated or less fertile lands should be improved by chemical and agricultural processes, with a view to increasing the cultivated surface and yield of the soil; special attention should be paid to stock-rearing, so as to improve the quality; to seed selection, and to intensive methods of cultivation.

"In connection with the productivity of the soil in Yugoslavia, the following figures tell their own tale. They are the relative wheat yields in quintals per hectare for the respective countries: Denmark, 30.20; Belgium, 27.08; Holland, 26.54; England, 24.57; Germany, 22.93; France, 13; Yugoslavia, 9.10; Russia, 7.37.

"Yugoslavia's natural resources are immense—in particular for agricultural production. The geographical position of the country is excellent; it has numerous waterways, a coastline of 450 miles along the Adriatic, with scores of natural harbours, and a soil for the most part fertile, suitable for every kind of cereal cultivation. Of the total area, 34 per cent. is arable land, 41.8 per cent. is covered with virgin forests, 8.22 per cent. with prairie land. The mild climate favours the cultivation of the vine (Yugoslavia produces some splendid wines) as well as of fruit trees of great variety."

YUGOSLAV STATE MONOPOLIES.

The following statement of receipts for the first nine months of the current financial year—April 1 to December 31, 1924—is published by the Administration of Monopolies of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats; and Slovenes:—

Monopoly.	Receipts, Dinars, April to Dec., 1924.		Receipts, Dinars, April to Dec., 1923.
Tobacco	1,243,867,133	.....	1,134,845,642
Salt	246,862,635	.....	241,413,124
Kerosene	108,607,815	.....	42,507,242
Matches	117,434,702	.....	95,701,724
Cigarette Paper	99,538,097	.....	88,610,678
Sundry Receipts	6,329,268	.....	3,927,736
Total	1,822,639,650	.....	1,607,006,146

The balance-sheet of the Administration of Monopolies for the nine months ending December, 1924, showed:—*Receipts:* Monopolies, 1,781,311,406; Customs, 244,996,261; taxes, 863,373,245—total, 2,889,680,912 dinars. *Expenditure:* Service of the Public Debt, 4 per Cent. Loan of 1895, 125,452,952; remitted to Blair and Co., New York, 57,781,043; 5 per Cent. Montenegrin Loan, 3,078,394; costs of administration, 521,680,777; current account with the Ministry of Finance, 2,019,251,145; purchase of supplies, 141,800,261; balance of cash on hand, 20,636,140—grand total, 2,889,680,912 dinars.

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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Until recently Yugoslavia has been only indifferently supplied in the matter of wireless telegraphy. The two largest stations were those of Banjitza (near Belgrade) and Sarajevo, the former with a strength of 20 kw., the latter of 10 kw. These two stations maintain an international wireless service, sending messages to Paris, Lyons, Cracow, Prague, and Rome, and receiving from all European stations. As at present constituted, however, their utility as transmitting stations is circumscribed, through having most of the time at their disposal taken up with the reception of Press messages.

To meet the requirements of the country the Government has now installed a large station at Rakovitza, just outside Belgrade. The plant has been supplied by the French Wireless Company, and the station has three separate component parts.

Rakovitza is the transmitting station. Here five great masts for the wires and a number of buildings have been erected on the high ground above the village, occupying an area of 55 acres. The station is furnished with two sets of alternators of 50 kw., controlled by automatic keyboards, with a capacity of a hundred words a minute.

The receiving station is at Vratchar, east of the new cemetery, and contains all the necessary apparatus to enable it to receive messages without interfering with the work of the transmitting station. The third station is situated in the Knez Mihailova Ulitza, the main street of Belgrade; it has a capacity for sending and receiving messages at the rate of a hundred words a minute.

Rakovitza is intended to maintain communication with all foreign stations, on the basis of agreements to be made or already made between the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and various foreign companies.

It has also at its disposal a station for the broadcasting of wireless telephonic messages, for Press purposes, and the transmission of financial information and concerts. The broadcasting service has already been organised, and is working every day from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on a wave-length of 1,680 metres. The setting up of this station and the purchase of the land has cost 40 million dinars.

There are also two small wireless stations at Kotor and Skoplje (Uskub), which are reserved for Government use.

It is now proposed to establish six additional wireless stations at Liubliana, Zagreb, Split, Podgoritza or Cettigne, Novi Sad, and Skoplje, and complete installations for this purpose have been ordered as reparations from Germany, to be supplied by two firms, Lorenz and Co. and the Telefunken Co.

Liubliana will be the largest of the new stations, of 10 kw. power, and able to communicate with all European countries. The other stations, with installations of 2 kw. power, are intended primarily for communication with neighbouring countries.

The Liubliana station will have a frequency machine of the Charles Schmidt pattern, strength 40 kw. and frequency 8.000. The generator will send out four lengths of wave, 4,150, 5,350, 7,500, and 12,000 metres. It will be connected directly to a motor with a continuous current of 70 h.p, the speed of running of which will be automatically regulated. The power will be supplied by two Diesel engines of 120 h.p., working a dynamo of 80 kw. at 440 volts. The station will also have the use of a small dynamo of 8 kw. at 330 volts.

The other two installations supplied by Lorenz and Co. will be supplied with an arc generator sending out waves of from 3,000 to 8,000 metres. Radio-telephonic apparatus will also be set up in each station with a wave-length between 3,500 and 4,500 metres. The necessary power will be supplied by a Diesel group of 30 h.p., working dynamos of 30 kw. at 800 volts.

To facilitate the service, the reception stations will be set up at a distance of several kilometres from the transmitting stations. The former will be fitted with antennæ on the double framework system, 20 metres across, placed on pylons 35 metres in height. These stations will be able to receive on a wave-length varying between 2,500 and 25,000 metres. Besides this, each station will be fitted with T-shaped antennæ for the reception of waves of less than 2,500 metres length.

The three stations supplied by the Telefunken Company will have a power of 20, 10, and 5 kw. respectively, the first being able to communicate with all other European countries, the second with neighbouring countries, while the third will be reserved for internal communications. All three stations will be provided with radio-telephonic apparatus. The third station will have a Diesel motor of 25 h.p. and two generators to give an alternative current, the first of 10 kw. at 220 volts and the second of 2 kw. These generators can send on a wave-length of from 1,700 to 5,000 metres.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue raised during the first eight months (April-November) of the financial year (April, 1924-March, 1925) amounted to 7,074,831,315 dinars, as compared with the estimated amount of 6,936,666,666 dinars. Expenditure for the same period amounted to 6,857,765,101 dinars, or 78,901,564 dinars less than the estimated amount.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S. KINGDOM.

BELGRADE, March 8, 1925.

ASSETS.		
Cash—		
Gold	72,367,486 65	
Silver	17,455,178 70	
Foreign Bank Notes	5,346,087 45	
At call in Foreign Countries	352,229,109 27	447,397,862 07
Portfolio Bills	1,136,838,091 34	
Advances on Securities	200,657,457 75	1,337,495,549 09
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186,367,906 76
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,962,422 74
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guarat. by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conver. of Crown Notes		2,138,377,163 —
Sundries		472,590,298 10
		8,916,546,235 76
LIABILITIES.		
Capital—Dinars 50,000,000 in gold		
Of which paid up		25,635,400 —
Legal Reserve		5,854,778 48
Notes in Circulation		5,746,302,100 —
Provisional Exchange Account		367,962,422 74
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		6,201,148 39
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	302,410,920 89	
Special Accounts	259,601,072 26	562,011,993 15
State Domains Account—		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		64,201,230 —
		8,916,546,235 76

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as 1 dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined, silver dinar as 1 dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6%. Loans on securities 8%.

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Shipping Intelligence.

JEWISH SHIPPING ENTERPRISE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Jews have recently launched out in a new direction and have formed a shipping company, which will be known as "The American Palestine Line," and will operate between New York and Haifa, with only one port of call, which will be Naples. This is the first shipping company to be formed as a purely Jewish concern.

The first boat, the s.s. "President Arthur," which has a displacement of 21,000 tons, left New York on March 12, and was due to arrive at Haifa on March 27. The "President Arthur" was formerly a German liner, and was named "Princess Alice." At that time it had accommodation for 2,384 passengers, but the present company have limited the accommodation to 550 passengers, who will either be cabin de luxe, first class, or second class. There is no third class accommodation on the ship.

On arrival at Haifa she will stay a few days and American goods of all kinds will be exhibited, after which the vessel is to proceed to Beyrout, Jaffa, Alexandria, and Naples to pick up cargo. She will then return to Haifa via Alexandria to embark the tourists, and will sail for New York direct. A regular service of this line will be run between New York and Haifa every sixty days. All boats will sail under the American and the Zionist flags, which will be flown conjointly.

LAUNCH OF NEW P. AND O. LINER.

A magnificent twin-screw mail and passenger liner of over 16,000 gross tons—the Rawalpindi—built to the order of the P. and O.S.N. Co., Ltd., was launched by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., on March 26. The new vessel, which is classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's, is 570 ft. by 71 ft. by 47 ft. 6 in.

The first-class accommodation, which has been arranged on the promenade bridge, shelter, and upper decks, is on a luxurious scale, provision having been made for 307 persons in this class. The second-class comprises accommodation for 265 persons, and is of a thoroughly up-to-date character, the arrangements for the comfort of the passengers leaving nothing to be desired.

The propelling machinery of the Rawalpindi, which has been constructed at the builders' Belfast works, and will be fitted on board at that port, consists of two sets of quadruple expansion engines of the balanced type of about 15,000 c.h.p., supplied with steam at 215 lb. pressure by six double-ended cylindrical boilers, fitted with forced draught and arranged for burning fuel oil. The vessel is fitted throughout with Welin quadrant davits.

The launching ceremony was performed by Lady Birkenhead, wife of the Secretary of State for India, in the presence of a distinguished company.

The Rawalpindi is intended for the P. and O. Co.'s mail and passenger service between London and Bombay.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTANTZA.

Considerable progress was made last year with the development and reconstruction of the port of Constantza. The basin of the old port was dredged and deepened to a depth of 8.25 metres below the sea level. The railway from the port to Medea station was reconstructed along a length of 3,600 metres, while a second line has been laid down on the coal quay. Other works included the installation of a portable crane, the consolidation of the sea shore north-west of the port, and the general extension of the facilities for handling cargo.

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. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 4).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Gazana for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 11); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 11).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 10).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, April 3); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 4).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, April 9); s.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, April 18).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Rails, etc.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 9,675 metrical tons of rails, and 709 metrical tons of steel fishplates and angled stops. April 28.

Bolts, etc.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 152 metrical tons of bolts and nuts for fishplates, 2,027 metrical tons of coachscrews, and 1,501 metrical tons of saddles for rails. April 29.

Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. May 2.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDA, April 28. *CIRCASSIA, June 12.
*ELYSIA, May 29. *OLYMPIA, June 26.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, Ltd.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd March, 1866.

ESTABLISHED IN CALCUTTA 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Subscribed Capital	**£4,000,000**
Paid-up Capital...	**£2,000,000**
Reserve Fund	**£2,750,000**
Number of Shareholders	**2,473**

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES:

CALCUTTA.
BOMBAY.
MADRAS.
KURRACHEE.
CHITTAGONG.
AMRITSAR.
CAWNPORE.
DELHI.
LAHORE.

TUTICORIN.
COCHIN.
RANGOON.
MANDALAY.
COLOMBO.
KANDY.
NEWERA ELIYA.
ADEN.
STEAMER POINT, ADEN.

ZANZIBAR.
MOMBASA.
NAIROBI. } Kenya Colony. } British East Africa.
NAKURU.
KISUMU.
ENTEBBE.
KAMPALA. } Uganda.
JINJA.
TANGA. } Tanganyika Territory.
DAR-ES-SALAAM.

AGENCIES:

GALLE, CEYLON ... Messrs. Clark, Spence and Co.
EDINBURGH ..... Messrs. Moncreiff and Horsbrugh, 46, Castle Street.
GLASGOW..... Messrs. Mackenzie, Roberton and Co., 176, St. Vincent St.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Sir CHARLES C. McLEOD, Bart., Chairman.
Sir JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
R. LANGFORD JAMES, Esq.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
J. N. STUART, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
J. D. NIMMO, Esq.
Sir MARSHALL F. REID, C.I.E.
J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

General Manager—C. NICOLL, Esq.

London Manager—J. Y. MUNRO, Esq.

London Bankers.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Solicitors—Messrs. SANDERSON, LEE AND CO.

Dr. GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1924. Cr.

The Rupee Assets and Liabilities have been converted at the rate of 1s. 4d. per Rupee.

To Capital—					
Subscribed, 160,000 Shares of £25 each, £4,000,000.					
Paid up £12 10s. per share	£2,000,000	0	0		
To Reserve Fund	2,750,000	0	0		
To Current, Fixed Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	32,548,162	15	8		
To Bills Payable	1,106,287	0	9		
To Acceptances for Customers	1,392,826	8	10		
To Profit and Loss Account, as under	534,980	4	9		
	£40,332,256	10	0		
To Bills receivable, rediscounted, £6,179,666 9s. 4d., of which up to 17th March, 1925, £4,581,945 19s. 11d. have run off. Forward Contracts outstanding for the Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, £13,337,727 10s. 1d.					
By Cash on hand, at call, and at Bankers	£4,441,927	7	6		
By Bullion on hand and in Transit	669,647	19	10		
				5,111,575	7 4
By Indian Government Rupee Securities				4,336,371	9 3
By British Government Securities, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures, and other Securities (of which £16,350 War Loan lodged with Bank of England as security for Government Accounts)				9,427,326	1 4
By House Property and Furniture				465,460	9 7
By Bills of Exchange				6,698,668	17 0
By Discounts, Loans Receivable, and other sums due to the Bank				12,900,027	16 8
By Customers for Acceptances per Contra				1,392,826	8 10
				£40,332,256	10 0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1924	200,000	0	0	By Balance at 31st December, 1923		494,054	18 0
To Expenses of Management at Head Office and Branches	541,625	15	7	DEDUCT—			
To Balance	534,980	4	9	Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half year ended 31st December, 1923 ..... £200,000	0	0	
				Amount written off House Property Account 20,000	0	0	
				Officers' Pension Fund 25,000	0	0	
				Amount carried to Reserve Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1923 50,000	0	0	
						295,000	0 0
				Balance brought forward		199,054	18 0
				By Gross Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1924, after providing for all bad and doubtful Debts		1,077,551	2 4
	£1,276,606	0	4			£1,276,606	0 4

C. C. McLEOD,
ROBERT MILLER,
R. LANGFORD JAMES. } Directors.

C. NICOLL, General Manager.

G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have audited the above Balance-sheet with the Books in London and the certified Returns from the Branches. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance-sheet is full and fair, containing the particulars required by the Regulations of the Company, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

London, 18th March, 1925

COOPER BROTHERS AND CO.,
W. A. BROWNE AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants. } Auditors.

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Company Meeting.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

Conditions in India.

Sir Charles McLeod's Speech.

The ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of India was held at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., on March 31, Sir Charles C. McLeod, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The general manager (Mr. Nicoll) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, the report of the directors and the accounts for the year ending December 31, 1924, have been before you for some days, and I presume we may as usual take them as read.

Before proceeding with the ordinary business to-day I would like to say how much we all regret the death of our late chairman, Mr. Robert Campbell, which occurred last May. He joined the bank as far back as 1877 and devoted all his energies to the advancement of its interests. He was elected chairman in 1903, and continued to occupy that position until his death. His services to the bank cannot be overestimated. It was his first consideration throughout his long connection with the bank and to his great knowledge and ripe experience the institution owes much of its present high position in the banking world. We deeply regret his loss. We also regret the retirement from the board of Mr. Robert Williamson, who was connected with the bank as director and deputy chairman for some twenty-nine years. He acted as chairman during the last three years of Mr. Campbell's tenure of office. He rendered most valuable service to the bank up to his retirement last January. Mr. Nimmo is absent in the East, but returns shortly. It is painful to me to add that since the issue of our report Sir Marshall Reid has passed away.

It is a great satisfaction to us on this side of the table, and must be equally satisfactory to you, that we are able to produce results which show that we have fully maintained the figures submitted to you a year ago. Our net profit, £535,925, is slightly in excess of that for the previous year, and adding the sum brought forward of £199,054 the total available for disposal is £734,980, or £40,926 more than a year ago, the larger amount brought forward accounting for the increase. All bad and doubtful debts have been fully provided for.

We propose again to place £50,000 to credit of our reserve fund, which will then stand at £2,800,000; to write down house property account £20,000, and to place £40,000 to credit of the officers' pension fund. In common with probably the majority of banks we find it necessary to increase the allocation to pension fund, but this provision, we feel sure, is one which will meet with your full approval. We propose paying a further dividend at the rate of 20 per cent., free of income tax, which, together with the interim dividend, disposes of £400,000, leaving the sum of £224,980 4s. 9d. to be carried forward, this amount being £25,926 more than was carried forward a year ago.

Balance-sheet.

The balance-sheet figures speak for themselves, but whereas a year ago we had to record a moderate falling off in some items, on this occasion we are able to publish increases in certain important particulars. On the liability side, current fixed deposits and other accounts show a satisfactory increase and acceptances are also up. Turning to the assets side of the sheet, our cash figure retains its strong position of over £5,000,000.

Our holdings of British Government, Indian Government, and other securities amount to £13,763,697, and we again show an increase in this item, amounting to £1,150,000 over the figures of the previous year. Our bills of exchange total £6,698,668—about the same as a year ago.

Discounts, loans, etc., show a healthy increase of about £400,000. Our total liquid assets consisting of cash securities and bills of exchange amount to the large figure of £25,573.940, against our liability on current, fixed deposits, etc., of £32,548,162. This is a very satisfactory position from the point of view of the depositor, but I frankly admit that we should be glad to see our funds more fully employed when conditions permit—less in gilt-edged securities and more in the finance of trade, which after all is the ordinary course of Eastern exchange banking. We are, however, in the position, through the strength of our resources, to take advantage of an increase in trade when it arises. I need only say that our securities are all gilt edged and short dated, and stand in our books at or under market value.

At these annual meetings reference is usually made to the Indian imports of gold and silver. The gold figures for 1924 are:—

Gold imported in 1924	£30,225,967
Gold exported in 1924	159,580
Making net imports	£30,066,387

The great demand for gold for India may be partly explained by the fact that the internal price for gold and sovereigns is considerably lower than for many years past. This is occasioned by the rupee standing at a higher premium over its pre-war level than the dollar has been standing at over sterling. At times the demand for gold has been so keen that a substantial premium over the basic price, i.e., American exchange, has been established, and even then the requirements have not been satisfied. Furthermore, in November and December the demand for sovereigns became so acute that bar gold was purchased in Cape Town at a slight premium over the London price for shipment to London for conversion into sovereigns for shipment to India.

Prices as in past years since the war have moved in sympathy with American exchange. The highest price was 98s. per ounce fine on January 21, and the lowest 88s. on December 30. The silver figures are not so impressive. They are: Silver imported in 1924, £15,319,352; silver exported in 1924, £2,799,554, making net imports, £12,519,798.

The highest price touched for spot silver per ounce was 36½ on October 9, and the lowest 31½ on December 29. The net imports of both metals in 1924 were therefore over £42,500,000, against about £39,000,000 in 1923, which are really remarkable figures.

The Indian Exchange.

As regards Indian exchange, the year opened with the rupee standing at about 1s. 5⅛d., and closed a penny higher at 1s. 6⅛d., with many violent fluctuations throughout the year. In the view of the Indian Finance Minister the time for stabilisation has not yet arrived, although he hopes that it is not far distant, and I am sure we would all welcome it. Meantime, exchange seems to have settled down in the neighbourhood of 1s. 6d.

Export trade has been fairly active. Crops generally have been good, and high prices have been obtained for India's principal exports such as jute, cotton, tea, rice and wheat. As regards imports, high prices for Lancashire cotton goods are still telling against a free demand from the Indian bazaars, although I am pleased to note from a paragraph in *The Times* last week that substantial orders have lately been placed from the Calcutta and up-country markets.

In the early part of the year there was extreme stringency in the Indian Money Market, due principally to the large amount of funds required to finance the Bombay cotton crop and Burma rice crop, and in February the Imperial Bank rate was raised to 9 per cent., whilst the average rate for the first six months of the year was as high as 8 per cent. No doubt the uncertainty regarding the future of rupee exchange made banks reluctant to employ London funds in India in order to relieve the stringency in the money market there. During the latter half of the year money was in moderate demand for financing the jute crop, but rates ruled at a lower level. Our funds in India were fairly well employed throughout the year. Local industries continue to expand, and many of them are showing favourable results. Calcutta jute mills have had a successful year and tea producers have obtained very favourable prices for their outturns. Other commodities have also shared in the general

THE QUICKEST ROUTES
TO
EGYPT : PALESTINE : GREECE
CONSTANTINOPLE
AND TO
ALL PARTS OF THE NEAR EAST
are by the Regular and Fast Services of the
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rise in prices. The balance of trade has not, however, been so consistently in favour of India as in the previous year on account of the heavy imports of bullion and purchases of sterling by the Indian Government.

When addressing you last year I sounded a hopeful note in regard to British East Africa, and I am very glad to report that results have more than justified my views. The expansion in cotton growing is remarkable, and shipments in 1924 reached the large total of 146,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, as against 92,642 bales in 1923. The current season is estimated to produce about 180,000 bales. Substantial increases are also shown in maize, coffee, and sisal, and the country generally is in a much more prosperous state than it has been since the slump of 1920.

Before I conclude my remarks I wish to record on behalf of the board of directors our great appreciation of the zeal and loyalty of our managers and staff, which remains unabated. Conditions in the Eastern banking world have not been any too easy during the past year, and it is to the care and consistent efforts of our managers and staff we owe our present satisfactory position.

I beg to propose:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1924, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1924, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, free of income-tax, on and after April 1, 1925."

After this resolution has been seconded by Mr. Stuart, if anyone wishes to ask any questions before I put it to the meeting I shall be pleased to answer them.

Mr. J. N. Stuart (deputy-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously after Mr. Frederick Tomkinson had congratulated the directors on the result of the year's operations.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Robert Miller, the appointment of Mr. R. Langford James as a director was confirmed, and he was re-elected.

Mr. J. N. Stuart then proposed the re-election of Sir Charles C. McLeod, Bart., as a director. In doing so he remarked that anyone who knew Sir Charles McLeod knew that he had a capacity for work equal to that of anybody in the City of London, and, what was even better, it was work that was successful. Sir Charles had the complete confidence of his colleagues on the board, who always loyally supported him in the very responsible position which he held in connection with the bank.

Mr. J. A. Toomey, in seconding the motion, said that they were very fortunate in having Sir Charles McLeod in the chair and thus having the benefit of his valuable services.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The other retiring director, Mr. J. A. Toomey, was re-elected on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co. were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. Alderman Percy W. Greenaway, seconded by Mr. Alexander W. Martin.

Thanks Voted to Directors and Staff.

Mr. J. Irwin Davis: I have much pleasure in proposing: "That a vote of thanks be given to the Chairman and directors for the care and prudence exercised in conducting the affairs of this bank during the past year, and also to the general manager and staff for their valuable services."

The passing of this resolution has always given us the utmost pleasure. To-day we cannot banish from our thoughts the sad and irreparable loss we have sustained, since last we met in this room, in the death of our late honoured chairman, Mr. Campbell. We mourn the loss of a man whom we all loved and respected, and who devoted all his energies during the greater part of his life to the building up of this bank, which to-day stands as a monument to his memory.

We, as shareholders, desire to associate ourselves with you, sir, in your reference to our loss, by resignation, of our late esteemed deputy-chairman, Mr. Williamson. We know how whole-heartedly he devoted himself to the best interests of the bank during his long period of office as director and deputy-chairman, and for three years, when he acted as chairman in the enforced absence of Mr. Campbell—a most eventful period in the history of Eastern Exchange banking. It must be a great satisfaction to him to know that he has left the bank in such a strong position. We desire to thank him, and to place on record our appreciation of his splendid services, and to assure him that our best wishes will follow him in his retirement.

We are indeed fortunate in having such a worthy successor in the chair as Sir Charles McLeod, and we have to congratulate him and his colleagues upon the good results of the past year. It is eminently satisfactory to see that the profits have again increased.

Well now, ladies and gentlemen, I think we owe a lot to our general manager and staff, both at home and abroad. (Hear, hear.) They have had a good deal to do with these happy results. Our directors may make plans and devise schemes, but we have to look to the staff for the increase, and we never look in vain.

We have a wonderful staff, and, when we consider the trying conditions and difficulties under which the work is carried on, we can realise to some extent what untiring energy and devotion are required, not only to maintain our position, but to keep forging ahead year by year.

I am sure this resolution will meet with your hearty support.

Mr. Frederick Tomkinson seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment on behalf of his colleagues, the officials and staff, and himself.

A vote of thanks to Sir Charles McLeod for presiding concluded the proceedings.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

A Quiet Period.

The report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended March 28 states:—

There has been a marked falling away from the activity of last week. The larger inquiry then received from India brought a fair amount of business to one or two sections, but in general business has been quiet.

Yarn.—In American yarns only a moderate turnover has taken place, and purchases have been mainly confined to the better qualities. As regards yarns made from Egyptian cotton, the state of affairs remains unchanged from that recently reported, viz., very little business in the finest qualities, but a fair demand for medium counts.

Cloth.—The amount of business booked has once more been quite out of proportion to the inquiry dealt with. India has been much quieter than last week, but, nevertheless, a fair business has been done. Very little transpires for China, and Egypt, also, is passing through a quiet period. South America and the Home trade have taken good lines.

Raw Cotton.—Considerable interest is now being taken in the prospects for the new American crop. After a period of dryness beneficial rains are said to have fallen in the cotton growing area, and in consequence there has been a certain amount of weakness in New York. Quotations, however, have not varied very widely. In the Egyptian section, on the other hand, fluctuations have been heavy, and although prices are considerably lower on the week, there is no confidence that wide movements both up and down can be avoided. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 13.88; Egyptian fully good fair, 36.35.

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GREECE'S NEW CARPET INDUSTRY.

The transfer of the Anatolian carpet industry to Greece by the wave of refugees from Asia Minor has given Greece another very important potential source of wealth. There seems no question now that the carpets of Anatolia can be made just as well in Attica, and, without immediate competition, the industry should have every chance to establish itself on firm foundations, and thus be prepared to face the time when Anatolia may once more be important as a producer of carpets. Greece's new industry is the subject of a very interesting article by M. Christophideus in a recent issue of *Oikonomologos Athenon* (quoted in the *Economic Review*), in which the writer gives a review of the history of the carpet industry, and discusses its prospects in Greece. He says that no one can predict with any certainty the future conditions of the competition in carpet-making between Greeks and Turks, but certain fundamental factors relating to the industry are clear and merit discussion.

Carpet making is, as is well known, essentially an industry for poor agricultural countries where the low cost of living and lack of employment for women enable the latter to devote themselves to it. These conditions have allowed of its development in lands of the Near and Far East. In no country where time is money will it be possible for this to happen, since the prices paid for hand-made carpets do not permit of high wages. For this reason no attempt has been made in America to found factories for the manufacture of hand-made carpets, even with the object of escaping heavy customs duties. So in Greece the prosperity of the industry for export purposes would be impossible but for the technical skill of the refugee population. In Turkey, on the other hand, wages are exceptionally low, especially in the interior of Anatolia. The present high cost of living there, which raises wages, is a result of the general business stagnation in Turkey, due to the War, and must certainly be regarded as transient. Asia Minor is, as regards agriculture, self-supporting, and the other needs of the population are not great. With the exception of the high officials the Turks are very small consumers of imported goods which tend to increase the cost of living and wages. As soon as the Christians, the real consumers, fled, Turkey's import trade fell to a very low ebb, and was confined almost exclusively to cereals, flour, fats, and a few other commodities. Outside the large cities the Turks usually live resignedly on what they have got, and are, therefore, content to work for what they are given, especially the women. For these reasons the Turks, under normal conditions, can produce cheaper than the Greeks, especially the owners of factories in Athens and other large towns. Normal conditions in Turkey will begin to be restored as soon as the country can again support itself by agriculture as before, and the import of cereals ceases. The Turks have much more abundant and generally cheaper sheep's wool than the carpet industry of Greece can command. Such are the dangers which in all probability the new Greek industry will have to encounter in the future.

The successful transfer of the carpet industry to Greece is due to the present relatively low cost of living in Greece as compared with the cost of living and labour in Turkey. In the course of time there will be a reversal of the conditions of life in Greece and Turkey, if account be taken of the reasons for the incredible cheapness of living in Turkey before the war, which reasons will most probably obtain once again in the future.

These questions merit the earnest attention of the Greek Governments. From the technical point of view the Greeks always excel, for the skill of their workmen is far superior, as are their intelligence and taste, and also their power of executing and adapting themselves to the æsthetic requirements of their customers. On this the Government may rely with absolute confidence whenever it decides to accord its protection to the new industry. It is, however, necessary to give greater consideration to the requirements of foreign markets. The Greek manufacturers do not possess the means to accomplish this, and ample proof exists that they are imperfectly informed on questions relating to design and colouring. The skill of the Greek artisans is beyond all praise, and is capable of further development, but the designers are deficient. These unfortunately think only of output, without going into the subject thoroughly and in detail. Many so-called Anatolian carpets are bought on account solely of their name and not of their quality. Naturally a purchaser having no particular enthusiasm is not disposed to pay high prices.

He goes on to urge that the future of the industry can only be assured by carpets of superior quality. Perhaps the manufacturers will have to turn their attention to the higher-priced kinds of carpet, especially to those in the Persian style, which, as has been stated above, can bear a higher cost of production and will fetch higher prices, and which the Turks are quite incapable of producing. Some of the refugee carpet makers are already in a position to produce successfully Persian carpets of medium quality, of which the writer has seen some specimens of the Sparta variety made to order. These, as regards quality, workmanship, beauty of design, and harmony of colouring, are by no means inferior to good Persian carpets. The artisans capable of manufacturing these carpets are few, but since the foundation has now been laid they will be able to train thousands of other workmen to the higher branches of their craft, which, as stated, is quite unattainable by the Turks.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	302-305
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	295-297
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.77-24.79
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{27}{32}$-1s. 5$\frac{29}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.85-92.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,020-1,030
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{27}{32}$-1s. 5$\frac{29}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	915-930
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.77⅞-4.78
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	89.55-89.60
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161-161½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116-15.25
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.90-34.00
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.75-24 90

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Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

British Policy in Palestine.

The article entitled "British Policy in Palestine and the Mandate," by Mr. E. T. Richmond, which is concluded in the current issue of THE NEAR EAST, has a special bearing on the attitude of the Arabs towards the Earl of Balfour's visit to Palestine. As often happens, the champion of the cause will be found to go farther than those for whom he speaks are themselves prepared to go. It may be doubted whether the position is really as bad as a perusal of Mr. Richmond's closely reasoned indictment would lead the reader to suppose. The Arabs were genuinely alarmed at the way in which they imagined that effect would be given to the Balfour Declaration; but slowly and reluctantly they are being brought to realise that the results in actual practice to a great extent belie their fears. Things are certainly not as they would wish them to be; but it may be doubted whether many of them really believe that the future of Palestine is likely to be what Mr. Richmond, with pitiless logic, shows to be possible from the wording of the Mandate.

Towards a Solution.

Mr. Richmond's solution is that the Palestine Mandate should be altered. There is no reason why in the process of time this should not be done, but it is hardly possible at this stage. Granted that mistakes have been made, the first step to a happier state of affairs is to appreciate the salient facts of the existing situation. No responsible person would suggest that the British Government should try to put things right by committing the wrong of sacrificing the Jews who have taken advantage of the Balfour Declaration. The occupation of Palestine, therefore, resolves itself into a question of the period required to ensure that under future administrations the Jewish minority shall be able to count upon the same equitable treatment as Arabs and Jews enjoy under the British régime, and shall have a fair field for the development of which their intelligence, resources, and organisation are capable in the interests of Palestine as a whole. The Arabs have it in their power to curtail or to prolong indefinitely this period of occupation. Good, bad, or indifferent, the Mandate is a trust, and before the responsibility that it entails can be shifted to other people Great Britain must know something about those people. Up to the present, as far as their leaders are concerned, nothing is known of the Arabs or their capacities beyond the fact that they sulk in their tents and hang out black flags. They have every right to do this, and it may be a very self-satisfying gesture, but it does not advance the Arabs one step towards their goal. They see in the case of Iraq that the British do not hesitate to confer a measure of real power upon people who are no more advanced and experienced politically than themselves; and they should infer that the delay in the introduction of the same policy in Palestine is due to the necessity of safeguarding the Jewish minority, not to fantastic expectations of the Jews in the course of a century or so being able to outnumber the Arabs.

A Modern Belshazzar.

The death of Mohamed Ali, formerly Shah of Persia, and father of the present Shah, will pass unnoticed in Persia, unless it causes the people of the country to debate afresh the relative advantages of a monarchy and a republic. The instinct of the East is undoubtedly towards the former. Persia, however, has been particularly unhappy in her experience during the last two decades. Mohamed Ali's brief reign of two and a-half years was a stubborn struggle, relieved only by actual fighting, between himself and his subjects over the Constitution, and after his deposition he made various attempts to recover the throne by armed invasion of Persia. His son, the present Shah, prefers residence in France to the duties of a constitutional monarch in Teheran. Little wonder that after this disastrous record the subject of the establishment of a republic should find some favour among Persians. The opposition to the proposal centres in the Shiah clergy, who may be shrewd enough to realise that a republic will sooner or later revert to a monarchy, and may be unwilling to countenance the creation of a new dynasty by one whose humble antecedents are still fresh in the public mind. Persia's gravest handicap has been the incapacity and corruption of her official class. Until a better example can be set by the

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Head of the State, there is little hope for a reformed bureaucracy.

INDIA.

Lord Birkenhead's Speeches.

On two occasions last week the Secretary of State had to speak on Indian questions in the House of Lords, and the result was yet another disappointment for those irresponsible persons who persist in looking for momentous declarations of policy without regard to the actual position of affairs. The two speeches were officially, we had almost written departmentally, correct, and nothing more, nor was anything else to be expected from a Secretary of State who is, at any rate, an experienced man of business. It ought not to be necessary to remind some of our contemporaries of the fact that the Viceroy is due in London in a fortnight, and that the declared object of his visit is to discuss the political situation in India. If in these circumstances Lord Birkenhead had now committed himself to a definite line, the result could only have been to render consultation nugatory. We must be prepared for a few weeks of rumours, which are not likely to hit on the truth except by accident, and, somewhere about Whitsuntide, we ought to learn what conclusions have been reached.

The Universities and India.

Lord Birkenhead showed himself just a little out of touch with actualities when, in introducing the Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Public Services Commission, he expressed inability to explain why India has ceased to attract the best young men at the Universities. It was left to Lord Chelmsford to furnish the necessary explanation from his personal experience, and we believe he was absolutely right in emphasising the feeling of insecurity as to the future, which has arisen naturally out of the changes of the last few years. The truth is that at the moment there is a strong tendency at Oxford and Cambridge to play for safety. An adventurous life may still attract, but an assured pension behind the adventure is the thing that matters most. It is probably a temporary phase, and one on which too much stress should not be laid, but it is decidedly inconvenient to the authorities responsible for recruitment and we hope to hear by and by that the missionary efforts of Lord Chelmsford, Lord Meston, and other speakers have borne fruit. India needs quality now, not quantity, but in order to maintain a proper standard of quality the range of selection must be reasonably wide.

The "Gesture" from Bengal.

An interesting situation has been produced by the manifesto in which Mr. C. R. Das, the leader of the Bengal non-co-operators, has made a sort of appeal for co-operation, but his precise meaning is not yet plain. In some quarters his action is represented as the magnanimous offer of a leader assured of his following, in others it is regarded as an appeal for extrication from the untenable position into which an eager but inexpert politician has blundered. Perhaps it is something between the two, but, in any case, the fact is more important than the motive. Unlike the other large provinces, Bengal has so far been unable to get on without the non-co-operators, and those of us who want to see India moving steadily forward are quite ready to welcome the adherence of any elements which have hitherto held aloof, subject, of course, to the condition that they honestly try to go forward and not backward. With an acting Viceroy in Delhi, and an acting Governor in Calcutta, it does not seem probable that any immediate reply will be forthcoming from the official side, but the position will doubtless be considered fully in the impending discussions in Whitehall.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Eyes on the Continent.

For a space domestic affairs have become singularly dull, and Parliamentary proceedings would hardly have been followed in the Press but for some outbursts by Lady Astor. In spite of national inclination, eyes have been once more turned to the Continent, watching the efforts of M. Herriot to save himself and of a German President to get elected. Things have come to a pretty pass indeed when the Englishman has to turn to Europe for his political excitement; but it looks as though he will have to keep his gaze thither until Mr. Churchill's Budget, which has aroused tremendous expectations, is published.

Mrs. Lloyd George's Pearls.

The political world is not without its own gaieties, which are chiefly provided by the feuds that notoriously exist between eminent politicians. The last scandal has as its setting the personal ornaments of Mrs. Lloyd George, for the wearing of which—notably a costly pearl necklace—the *Daily Herald* has made war generally on ex-Cabinet Ministers not of its own faith. Was it for this—the buying of a £1,000 necklace—the *Daily Herald* asked, that Mrs. Lloyd George's husband was appointed to rule the destinies of the poverty-stricken people of this country? But in asking this the *Herald* digged a very deep pit for itself.

For the ex-Prime Minister whom more than any other Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is supposed to dislike has not forgotten that a few short months ago the ex-Labour Prime Minister was presented with a Daimler for his personal delectation. The comparison between a mere pearl and a motor-car was instantaneously and inevitably made; and the *Herald* was considerably worsted.

Certainly it was one up to Mr. Lloyd George. Unfortunately for his future, however, such and such alone are the victories which he seems capable of achieving.

The Revival of the Airship.

Last week two important things were, under British auspices, taken up, after they had been laid aside for a time: the opening of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, and the reconditioning and refloating of the airship R.33 at Cardington. With the former my colleagues will have dealt, but I take leave to doubt whether it attracted as much notice as this revival of the airship. One had almost unconsciously written the airship down as a failure, so that this determined effort to prove its efficiency and worth came as a surprise.

The R.33 is an experimental ship, designed expressly for commercial purposes. Those who see farthest ahead undoubtedly believe in the future of the airship, and, of course, if it is to have a future, it is the British Empire that most needs it. In a very obvious way, therefore, this revival of the air-

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ship may mean the first rung in a very long and important Imperial ladder.

The Theatre Slump.

A few weeks ago all appeared to be happy in the world of theatres. Not for a very long time had there been so many successful productions, and with an excellent choice of plays London seemed to be quite content. There were, for instance, "St. Joan" at the Regent, "Hamlet" at the Haymarket, the Irish Players at the Little, "The Farmer's Wife" at the Court. Now it is all changed, the old familiar chorus of plaint on the part of the managers is coming unkindly on our ears. The first three of the four plays that I have mentioned have just been or are about to be dropped, and nothing very satisfactory has yet been found to take their place.

For those whose theatre-going has the one object of entertainment, there are, it is true, still "No, No, Nanette" and an odd revue or two, but for those who like a little more than this between their dinner and their sleep the immediate outlook is rather dull.

Beyond question, "Hamlet" and "St. Joan" have dominated the past season. In the former Mr. John Barrymore, an American actor, achieves a tempered and sensible reading, but he does not, in my opinion, touch greatness. What is magnificent in this Haymarket production is the setting, severe and superb, by an American artist, Mr. R. E. Jones; and no praise can be sufficient for the way in which the Ghost says his words. On the whole, however, the cast cannot compare for universal distinction with that which has made "St. Joan" so well deserved a success.

London and the Provinces.

There is, by the way, a strong move now being made to rid London of its monopoly of original theatrical production, and to place more reliance upon provincial merit and judgment. Without doubt the centralisation in London of artistic activity is bad for the nation, and just as in the concert world an attempt has been made at devolution, so now shrewd judges are looking to the provinces for artistic and commercial salvation.

As things are at present, the provincial has generally to be content with the second-rate playing of some London success. Original productions in the provinces, moreover, are generally unsuccessful. Yet they must, if local initiative is not to be completely sapped, be made. How? At least in Birmingham a way out is being found. Mr. Barry Jackson, who runs the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, which has already brought to London one or two good things, is going to use the money which he is making from "The Farmer's Wife" at the Court to enable him to continue with the financially unprofitable work of experiment of his Repertory Players. Thus London will pay for provincial enterprise. One can only hope that this principle will be imitated and extended.

At present, it is true, England seems in the struggle between centralisation and devolution—*e.g.*, in the entertainments of wireless and of the cinema—to be inclining towards centralisation, but there are sufficient factors which indicate local self-assertiveness as to lead one to hope that eventually the sum of the units of England will prove to be greater than its present whole.

Creators and Acquisitors.

A few days ago Lord Spencer's Titian, about which I have previously written, was sold to America, and, of course, we have had the usual wailing chorus—our priceless art treasures are going across the Atlantic, we shall soon have none left, and so on. But we are not the only sufferers. France has tried, by legal methods, to stop the sale of her works of art, and has failed. Italy absolutely prohibits the export of such things.

It seems that this country is prepared to follow neither of these courses. Can it be that she is so content with American incapacity in art that it is out of positive sympathy that she, a creator, allows these works of art to pass to a mere acquisitor?

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Dr. Hamid Mahmoud and Makram Obied, supporters of Zaghloul Pasha, are expected to arrive in London to-morrow.

Major-General Sir Francis Younghusband was on April 2 appointed President of the Mathematical, Cartographic, and Geodetic section of the International Geographical Congress which was opened by King Fuad in Cairo on April 1.

April 26 has been fixed for the service of dismissal of those who are going on the second Anglo-Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The service will be conducted at St. Matthew's, Westminster, by the Bishop of Willesden.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Barrow (Aide-de-Camp-General to the King) represented His Majesty and Colonel R. B. Worgan represented the Prince of Wales at the Memorial Service for General the Lord Rawlinson (Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India) which was held at St. James's Church, Delhi, on March 31.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Einstein Institute of Mathematics and Physics, Jerusalem University, was held last Thursday afternoon in the University grounds, in the presence of the Earl of Balfour and Sir Herbert Samuel. Sir Arthur Schuster delivered the opening address, after which Dr. Weizmann made a speech and Sir Herbert Samuel laid the foundation-stone.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has received the following message from the Prime Minister of Iraq:—

"News of the death of Lord Curzon was received with great sorrow by all Iraqis, who mourn the loss of a true friend who had defended their cause in a way which they will never cease to remember with gratitude. On behalf of the Government of Iraq I wish to express the grief caused by the loss of one of the greatest, wisest, and best British statesmen."

Mr. Amery and Sir Samuel Hoare inspected the Royal Air Force, Indian Army, Iraq Levies, and Iraq Army units in Mosul on April 1, having arrived by air from Baghdad the previous day. In the afternoon they visited the ruins of Hatra, and Sir Samuel Hoare visited churches and shrines in Mosul. A *soirée* was held in their honour by the Municipality in the evening, and addresses of welcome were read on behalf of the Municipality, the Independence Party, and the Committee of Defence. Mr. Amery replied in Arabic, and his speech caused great enthusiasm. Sir Samuel Hoare explained the manner in which air control had brought security to Iraq and how the co-operation of the British military and air forces with the local forces had led to a better understanding between the two nations. On April 2 a further inspection was made of Iraq Army units, and the whole party left for Kirkuk by air via Rowanduz.

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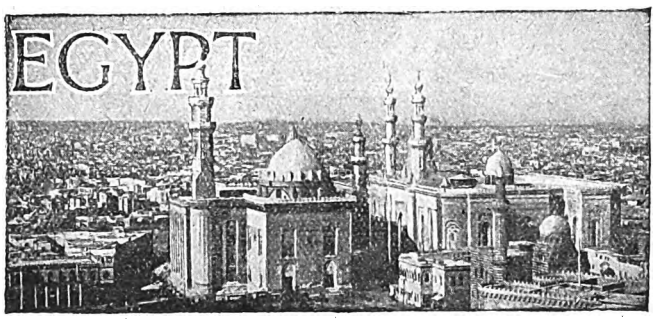
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, March 28.

The Government's Defeat.

So much has already been written about last Monday's proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies that, a week later, there is little original comment to be made. Perhaps the principal lesson to be drawn from the Government's surprisingly heavy defeat in the elections for President of the Chamber is the exceeding instability of Egyptian political opinions. While the Government certainly knew days before the Chamber met that they had been somewhat optimistic in their official election returns, yet they had honestly expected that, when the Chamber assembled, a large proportion of the wavering deputies would declare for the Ministry. In the event it was exactly the opposite which happened, practically every member of the Chamber who had been elected as an independent and one or two who were supposed to have sheltered under the "Ittehad" banner voting with the Zaghloulists. The mentality of the typical Egyptian politician is displayed by the careers of two of the deputies who "ratted" on Monday. Badrawi Pasha Ashour and Serag el Din Pasha Shahin are two of the wealthiest of Egyptian landowners, and have always felt it incumbent on themselves to participate in local politics. Originally supporters of Zaghloul Pasha, they transferred their allegiance to Adly Pasha Yeghen when the latter left the Wafd. In due course they joined the Liberal Constitutional Party and were elected as Liberal Constitutionals to the first Egyptian Parliament. But, on finding their party in a very small minority, they promptly transferred to the Zaghloulist camp and there remained for nearly a year. When, during the recent election campaign, the position of Zaghloulist candidates began to be uncomfortable, the two Pashas threw in their lot with the newly-formed "Ittehad" Party. But, once in the Chamber, and sensing the way in which the voting would go for the Presidency, they again sought to be on the side of the big battalions. Now, the Chamber having been dissolved and the possibility of Zaghloul Pasha's returning to office seeming as remote as ever, Badrawi Pasha and Serag el Din Pasha are among the most constant frequenters of the "Ittehad Club," newly installed in the former premises of the Club Hellénique in Shareh Maghraby.

The Ziwar Ministry's Position.

Realisation of this extraordinary feature of Egyptian political life is necessary if the very courageous and very unconstitutional action of the Ziwar Ministry is to be rightly judged. For it is arguable that, in refusing to adopt the normal practice of resigning in face of a hostile majority, they were, in preventing the formation of a Zaghloulist Government, simply asserting the country's expressed wishes, which had been betrayed by turn-coat deputies. It would certainly be difficult to make out a very convincing case along these lines, but it is at least worth noticing as being one more proof that Egyptian politics must not be judged by British standards.

For the moment constitutional government is at an end. The decree annulling the old electoral law was issued on Thursday evening, and no new electoral law will be promulgated until the recently appointed revising commission has concluded its labours. That may be several weeks hence, and, in the meantime, Egypt will have no Parliament nor any means of getting one. The Chamber, in fact, is hardly likely to meet again before the middle of November, before which date many things may happen and many opinions change.

Drug Traffic Laws.

It should be possible, in the absence of an obstructive and stultifying Chamber, to get much useful legislation framed and put into operation. During the past week there was promulgated the long-looked-for law dealing with the drug traffic, which at last makes it possible to punish a persistent trafficker in cocaine with some severer penalty than a P.T.100 fine. Imprisonment up to three years and/or a fine of £300 can, indeed, now be awarded, not only to illicit drug dealers, but also to anyone in unlawful possession of narcotics. Thus Egyptian laws are approximated to the practice in European countries. Properly applied, the new legislation should prove effective to deal with the drug menace, which has already done immense harm in this country, but, with past experience in mind, it is difficult to be optimistic. The Capitulations may prove an insuperable barrier to effective action against foreign drug smugglers, and it is, unfortunately, among the foreign communities that many of these criminals are to be found.

Departures.

The past week has been one of farewells. Sir Maurice and Lady Amos sailed yesterday from Alexandria, after a heavy round of valedictory entertaining and being entertained. Local opinion saddles Sir Maurice Amos with chief responsibility for the new orientation, in 1922, of the British

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Government's policy towards Egypt, and, in consequence, it is in some places considered that the retiring Judicial Adviser was misguided in his political outlook. But his sterling judicial work and his transparent honesty of purpose have never been doubted, while the esteem in which he is held by Egyptians and Europeans alike was manifested by the very large number of people of all nationalities who have joined, in one way or another, in wishing him God-speed.

Another departure yesterday was that of Colonel P. J. V. Kelly, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has just vacated command of the 3rd Hussars. Colonel Kelly had spent very many years in Egypt and the Sudan, and his name will always be particularly associated with the Darfur campaign in the early part of the War. Later he commanded a brigade of Australian Light Horse in Palestine and Syria, and after the War was appointed to the command of his regiment, from which he now retires.

Jerusalem, March 28.

The Arab "Strike."

"Balfour Day" has come and gone. On Wednesday last Arab Palestine duly "struck" according to programme, and "struck" with a greater unanimity than it has ever achieved hitherto in its five or six attempts to register a united sentiment against the Government's Jewish policy. The visible signs were the closed shops and the difficulty of finding means of transport. But with a whole month's warning of what was coming, the inconvenience to the public was only slight. "Strikes" here are different things altogether from the Western variety. Even when "striking" the Oriental deplores anything that may cause extra worry. This time, however, there really was a danger of grave inconvenience to the Moslems; the specified date coincided with the Even of Ramadan—as vital a shopping day as Christmas Eve. The difficulty was avoided with delightful ease by making Ramadan begin a day earlier.

The Government made a judicious but by no means overwhelming display of police precautions; and, as was generally anticipated, no untoward happenings whatever occurred. Throughout the day of the "strike" the atmosphere was festive rather than charged with that electric feeling of restlessness indicative of dangerous excitement. Credit should be given to the Arab leaders for the consistent way in which they throughout preached the necessity for a peaceful "strike." The Jews, too, were wise in their restraint; except for the actual receptions of Lord Balfour at Rishon l'Zion and Tel-Aviv, they have abstained from any public manifestations of joy wherever these would by any chance offend the ears or eyes of the Arabs. They did not even grant a holiday to the school-children.

The Arab school strikes were very sporadic. Out of a total of 312 Government elementary and secondary schools, only four town and four village schools were seriously affected. Out of 671 teachers only one "struck." In the Government Teachers' Training College, the pupils became out of hand two days before the "strike," and the Director of Education closed down the College and sent the pupils home. The Government announces that the College will remain closed for the present; while the pupils assert that they will refuse to return unless the present Principal and one of his chief assistants are dismissed.

Lord Balfour at Tel-Aviv.

Lord Balfour, visiting Palestine in his capacity of "the Second Cyrus," has surely never before in his life received such a tumultuous welcome as was given him on the second day of his visit by the Jews of Tel-Aviv and the neighbourhood. The local Jewish Press has scarcely room for anything else but Balfour, his past and present, his movements hour by hour, his every speech, and articles by the score, overflowing into special supplements, giving pictures of him as statesman and philosopher. He gracefully deprecated, while giving an after-luncheon speech at Rishon, all personal responsibility for the famous "Declaration," and, in the course of refusing to touch upon anything remotely controversial, asserted that the policy of the Declaration was irrevocable, having been forged by the combined political wisdom of all the first-class world Powers.

Visitors in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is fuller far than it has ever been in these post-War years, and visitors are still pouring in. One hotel, it is stated, is demanding £5 a day for accommodation, and getting it.

Liubliana, March 28.

Affairs in the Skupshtina.

The great debate on the Verification of Mandates is over, and the Government and Croat Opposition Deputies alike have had to put up with a compromise.

In the Verification Committee the Government

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one-man majority decided that all mandates of the Croat Republican Peasant Party were to be annulled; likewise, two Democrat mandates obtained in the Bregalnitza electoral district, whereas a Parliamentary inquiry was to decide the fate of the eleven mandates of the Slovene People's Party obtained in the Maribor district.

This decision became untenable because the Opposition improved its case from day to day. It put its most brilliant speakers into the field, while the Government contented itself with employing only second and third best forces. So the Opposition extended its moral victory, and the Government found itself compelled to revise the decision of the Verification Committee.

This necessity was made particularly clear when the Croat Raditch Deputies began to speak. Dr. Politch, late Rector of the University of Zagreb, proved that the Government was in no way justified in applying the Defence of the State Law against the Raditch Party. This law was framed specially with a view to dealing with the Communist danger. But the Raditch Party was in no sense a Communist Party; and even if it had joined the Moscow Peasant International, it had not, therefore, turned Communist, since on that occasion it had expressly stated that as a party it remained true to its own programme. The Croat Peasant Party was known to be a pacifist party. During the whole time of its existence not one political murder or attempted murder or illegal action could be laid to its charge. Dr. Politch's arguments were unanswerable, and the Minister for Internal Affairs was unable to refute them.

The speeches by the other Raditch Deputies proved even more convincing. Quite a sensation was caused by Dr. Shuperin when he explained the programme of the Croat Peasant Party. The party's first principle was belief in God. That alone takes it miles away from Communism. Furthermore, the party is for the Monarchy, for State unity, for peaceful agreement and understanding between the individual branches of the Yugoslav nation; but it demands equal rights for them all, and cannot consent to have the Croats thrust against the wall.

After Dr. Shuperin's speech it was plain that the decision of the Verification Committee could not stand. But things were made plainer still by the speech of M. Pavle Raditch, the accepted successor of M. Stephan Raditch to the leadership of the party. His speech definitely disposed of the bogey of Communism in connection with the Croat Peasant Party, and so favourable was the impression it created that even the Radicals applauded.

The Independent Democrats (Pribitchevitch group) tried in vain to win the Radicals over to an annulment of the Raditch mandates and those of the Slovene People's Party. But these attempts failed. The Radicals realised that the decision of the Verification Committee would have to be dropped. Of course, the Radicals had to cover their retreat, and so some of the disputed mandates are to be submitted to a Parliamentary inquiry; but this will be practically a purely formal matter. In the end it was decided: (1) That the disputed mandates of the Democrat Party obtained in the Bregalnitza district be confirmed; (2) that, similarly, all mandates of the Slovene People's Party be confirmed; (3) that all mandates of Raditch Deputies elected for the first time be confirmed; (4) that the mandates of Stephan Raditch and the five interned Raditch Deputies be annulled; (5) that a Parliamentary inquiry decide the fate of the rest of the disputed mandates.

Capitulation, complete surrender, and so forth are the terms applied to the patriotic speeches of the Raditch Deputies by the Government Press in its comment upon them. And in many respects this is justified. Consider the style of speech M. Raditch has permitted himself during his six years' Opposition career! There is scarcely a single Serbian politician whom he has not attacked—nay, abused. We may safely say, that it would be difficult to find a Serbian ideal which he has not insulted in one or other of his harangues. Even the heroic retreat of the Serbian army through Albania, rightly named the *via dolorosa* of the Serbian people—even this heart-stirring human tragedy was not safe from his attacks. Yet now the representatives of his party have positively been vying with one another in the matter of patriotic utterances. Republic and threefold nationality have been buried, and the main principles of the opposite policy adopted. Truly, the change is complete.

No wonder that in the ranks of the Opposition this absolute change of front has not made the best of impressions. Dr. Koroshets, in particular, is put out, principally because in one of his speeches M. Pavle Raditch bitterly attacked the Slovene People's Party. There is considerable dissatisfaction, too, among the Bosnian Moslems over this Raditch "capitulation." Only the Davidovitch Democrats—who, by the way, are showing the clearest judgment in their appreciation of the position—are taking the situation calmly.

Croatia and the Raditch Deputies.

The next question to arise is: How will the Croat public take the new course adopted by the Raditch Deputies? Will it bear them company in their *volte face*, or leave them in the lurch? If the Croats continue united, and the Raditch Deputies give proof of their Opposition point of view on other matters—e.g., when it comes to voting for or against the new Press law, it is too early to speak of capitulation. But if it should come to a split in the Croat Party, the success of the Radicals would be complete, and likewise their victory over the Opposition. In that case we might see changes in the Government, and a coalition of the Radicals and the Raditch Deputies would be quite on the cards. In that case the Independent Democrats would be the hardest hit by the new situation, and their only consolation

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would be that their chief opponents, the Slovene People's Party, would also find themselves left out in the cold. But there would be small comfort in that.

Political Orientations.

Saturday's (March 28) sitting of the Skupshtina proved that there are rifts in the Opposition front. Whereas the Government parties stood united over the election of the various Parliamentary committees, each of the Opposition parties put forward its own list of candidates, and by that alone lost mandates.

In any case it is certain that by the veering round of Radicals and Raditch Deputies alike Yugoslav internal politics have been given a new direction. The events of the next few days will show whither the new course tends, and how one must estimate the newly created position. At the moment it is too soon to hazard a definite opinion; for neither side has so far had time to define its attitude towards the new state of affairs.

Sofia, April 1.

Political Outrages.

There continue to be assassinations, conspiracies, and various outrages. Last week the police had planned to round up a band of anarchists living in Sofia. Apparently the anarchists had got wind of the police's intentions and were on their guard. One evening a force of detectives and anarchists came into collision in the streets, with the result that one anarchist was killed and another wounded. At the same time a Bulgarian officer who was a casual spectator of the event was killed. The following day the police arrested several anarchists, although one escaped after throwing a bomb at the captors. In the evening a notorious Communist was killed after a fight with a detective in a house in the outskirts of Sofia.

From the provinces there come frequent reports of Communists and Government officials being killed, and the "Sureté Publique" has issued a *communiqué* warning the public that the existence of certain illegal Communistic organisations has been discovered. It is stated that these organisations have planned a series of assassinations, and the "Sureté" calls on the citizens to assist in ascertaining the whereabouts of various persons who are wanted.

The authorities state that as a result of the zeal shown by their agents the Communists have lost a great number of their chiefs and are becoming disorganised. It is certainly to be hoped that this is the case, but as long as murders continue it will be hard to convince public opinion, both in Bulgaria and abroad, that the country is really calm. The spring has now arrived, and the Government has stated that the Communist menace must and will end before the summer. If this surmise proves to be correct, the Zankoff Administration can be congratulated.

Turkey and Bulgaria.

It is possible that a treaty of amity may shortly be signed between Bulgaria and Turkey. M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian diplomatic representative in Turkey, has been in Sofia, and will shortly return to Constantinople furnished with new instructions. It is understood that beyond the question of the Bulgarian Exarchate at Constantinople, there are no important questions of dispute between the two Governments. It is, however, probable that a new Bulgarian Minister will be appointed, as M. Radeff is likely to proceed to Washington.

M. Malinoff's "Social Entente."

The Democrats who follow M. Malinoff, an ex-Prime Minister, recently held a congress in Sofia, where the slogan of a "Social Entente" in preference to a "Democratic Entente," the régime at present governing Bulgaria, was waved aloft. M. Malinoff left the Democratic Entente not long after its formation, and since then may be said to have been the chief exponent of a policy which aims at holding the balance between the Bourgeois group and the parties on the Left. Whilst strongly condemning the illegal methods pursued by Communists and a certain section of the Agrarian party, M. Malinoff believes that a broad coalition stands more chance of pacifying the country than the present Administration. Associated with him are the Socialists and the dissident Radicals of M. Kostourkoff. There has also been talk of the moderate Agrarians joining this group, but M. Malinoff himself admits that the time for this is not yet. The Congress of Malinoff's Democrats did not achieve anything very notable, but it aroused fierce criticism in Governmental circles which allege that Malinoff's policy would be suicidal to Bulgaria, as it will only encourage the irresponsible elements amongst Agrarians and Communists. In a nutshell, M. Malinoff believes, or professes to believe, that it is possible to collaborate with the Agrarians; the Government considers that such collaboration is quite impossible. The future will show which of the two beliefs is correct, but as things are at present, it would seem that M. Malinoff cannot hope for any chance of success. Still, later on, such a policy may be of great value to the country.

News in Brief.

M. Jean Grabovsky, who has been Polish Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia for the last four years, presented his letters of credence as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to King Boris last week.

Comte de Chériséy, former French Delegate on the Inter-Allied Reparation Commission, leaves Sofia for Paris to-day.

Queen Marie of Yugoslavia arrived in Bucharest last week.

Two Bulgarian airmen who descended a short time ago in Yugoslav territory, and were detained, were conducted on April 1 to the frontier after an inquiry. Their machine, being of a military type, was detained.

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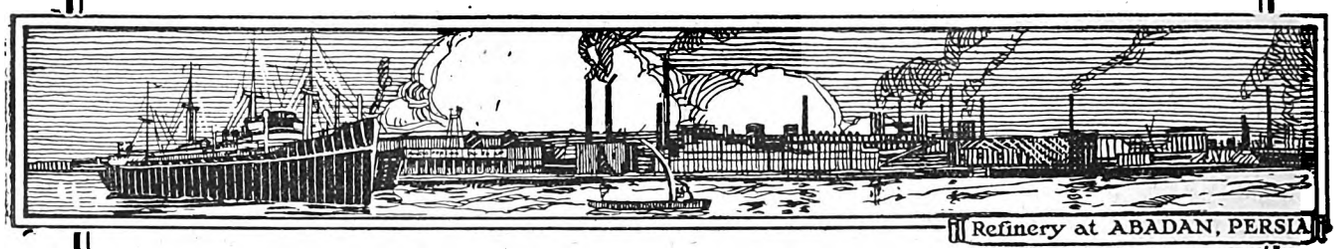

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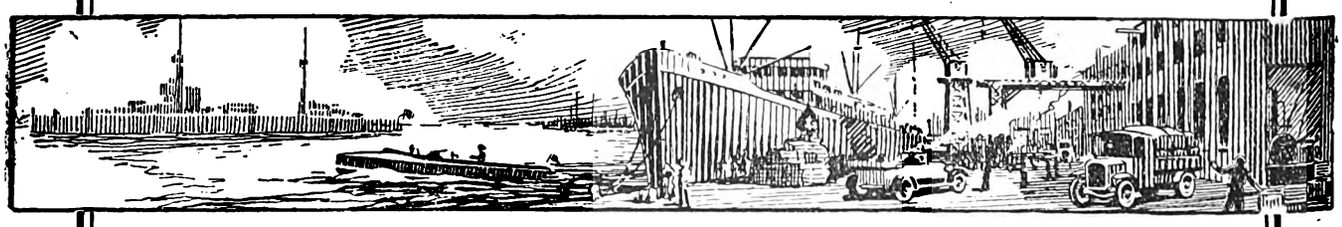

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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.

THE FINANCES OF PALESTINE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your Palestine Correspondent, in his letter published in The Near East of March 12, has freely besprinkled his page with figures of whose exact import he would seem, from his use of them, to be unaware. The Government of Palestine, in the *Official Gazette* of March 15, has published in an Appropriation Ordinance the approximate expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1925. This statement (p. 140) shows that, in spite of every effort to decrease the Budget, the Government is seemingly faced with an expenditure greater than that for any year since the Civil Administration took over the government of the country. (See "The Commercial Bulletin," published by the Government of Palestine, Vol. 5, No. 54, p. 174.) The figures quoted in the Appropriation Ordinance represent the maximum sum expendable by the Government, and may, when the accounts for the year are closed, show a slight decrease. No mention is made of the estimated receipts for the same period, but the expenditure is £E1,912,913. This includes the sum of £E167,126 allotted to "Public Debt and Loan Charges," which apparently covers the instalment due to the French concessionaires for the purchase of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway by Palestine, and the interest upon the sum of £E1,349,000 borrowed from the Crown Agents.

Much has been heard during the past year of the projected loan of £E3,000,000, and a second loan of £E1,000,000 for the construction of a port at Haifa. The interest upon the two loans will not be less than £E200,000 per annum, excluding any provision for a Sinking Fund, so that the future Budgets of the Government will be increased by this amount. In addition, the same *Official Gazette* states that the first charge upon the public revenues of Palestine is the annuity due to the Commissioners of the Ottoman Public Debt. For the first twenty years this amount is stated to be £E294,000, though it is possible that it may be reduced. It is estimated by competent authorities that the revenue of Palestine cannot exceed £E2,250,000 for some years, until such time as commercial development has increased the productivity of the territory to a marked degree. For the year ending March 31, 1922, the revenue was £E1,997,000, which in so far as the published figures of the Government allow the public to judge, is the maximum amount collected in any one year. Unless the axe is to fall more heavily, the present scale of expenditure is liable to lead to an annual deficit. Your Palestine Correspondont states that on January 31 the surplus amounted to "something over half a million." Presumably he has not ascertained whether the expenditure covering this period includes amounts for interest charges and the annuity of the Ottoman Public Debt for 1924. Until the close of the financial year, when liabilities as well as assets are fully accounted for, it would seem an unwise policy to bank upon a possible surplus. The best answer to your Correspondent's criticisms is the fact that, in spite of all efforts made during the past three years, the Palestine Government has been unable to announce the issue of a loan. Economic conditions and the heavy Budgets may be regarded as responsible for the lack of interest in a projected loan, which is mainly required to pay back borrowed capital already expended and to meet liabilities due to the British Government for various "assets transferred and stores."—I am, etc.,

J. B. Barron, Lt.-Col.

Alexandria, March 26.

[It is difficult to see any actual conflict in the facts as stated by our Jerusalem Correspondent and by Colonel Barron. The contention of the former was that there was reason to hope that Palestine was beginning to turn the corner. Colonel Barron seems to hold that it never can and never will. The future alone can decide the point.—Ed.]

BRITAIN AND THE PALESTINE ARABS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In an article which appears in The Near East of March 26 Mr. E. Richmond repeatedly refers to the alleged British pledge to "recognise and support the independence of the Arabs" in Palestine.

Mr. Richmond does not attempt to prove that such a pledge was ever given, and he apparently makes the surprising assumption that no proof is required.

As he vaguely refers in general terms to "the promise made to the Sherif of Mecca," I may, perhaps, remind him that Sir Henry MacMahon, who represented the British Government in the negotiations with the Sherif, has expressly stated that, whatever promises were made to him, Palestine was outside their scope. Mr. Philip Graves in his "Land of Three Faiths," quotes at length from a "letter written on March 12, 1922, by Sir Henry MacMahon to the Department most interested in Palestine." In this letter, he says, Sir Henry records the fact that "it was his intention to exclude Palestine from an independent Arabia. . . . It was as fully his intention to exclude it as it was to exclude the more northern coastal areas of Syria. He did not make use of the Jordan to define the limits of the more southern area because he did not know whether at some later stage in the negotiations with the Sherif a more suitable frontier might be found east of the river. He concludes by saying that he does not remember ever having heard anything from King Hussein which gave the impression that the latter did not understand Palestine to have been excluded from an independent Arabia."

It may also be pertinent to observe that in so authoritative a work as the "History of the Peace Conference" published under the auspices of the British Institute of International Affairs, it is expressly stated (Volume VI., page 156) that "under the agreement between Great Britain and the Sherif of Mecca, Palestine, as lying west of the Damascus-Aleppo line, was excluded from the area destined for an independent Arabia."

Mr. Richmond repeatedly quotes the British White Paper of 1922 (Command 1,700), but there is one passage which he refrains from quoting. Referring to Sir Henry MacMahon's promise to the Sherif of Mecca, the Secretary of State points out

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that "this promise was given subject to a reservation which excluded from its scope among other territories the portions of Syria lying to the west of the district of Damascus." This reservation has always been regarded by His Majesty's Government as covering the Vilayet of Beyrout and the independent Sanjak of Jerusalem. The whole of Palestine west of the Jordan was thus excluded from Sir H. MacMahon's pledge.

Mr. Richmond is, of course, at liberty to argue that he knows better, but, if he does, the onus of proof would appear to be upon him.—I am, etc.,

Leonard Stein.

97, Lansdowne Road, W.11,
March 31.

[In justice to Mr. Richmond we must point out that in the earlier part of his essay—which we, thinking that the question of "pledges" and "promises" to be now mainly of historical importance, did not publish—he went fully into the matter of governmental communications with the Arabs, setting out to show that British official interpretations of them have not been logical.—Ed.]

THE GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In reading the interesting editorial in your issue of March 12 on the situation in Bulgaria it occurs to me that, despite the completeness of the article, one point may still be underlined.

Whilst it is true that the Tsankoff Government has its faults, it cannot be denied that in actual circumstances in a country like Bulgaria, where the political education of the people as a whole cannot be compared with "Western" conceptions, also able and good men will sometimes fail. It was certainly a bad inheritance that was left by the previous unique régime of Stamboliski, of which little is comparatively known outside Bulgaria. The successful checking of Communist activities has had also its effect upon Moscow, and at present the tactics of the Communists are directed towards discrediting the Zankoff Government, in order to see it substituted by a "Kerenski" Government. The opposition of some bourgeois leaders seems to be a welcome ally to the Communists, who see their only chance for success depending on a change of the present Government. What the consequence would be can be guessed, and the possibility that these consequences may overlap Bulgaria's frontiers and also take others by surprise is by no means excluded.—I am, etc.,

E. Jankowski.

March 31.

THE JEWS AND USURY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—One gathers from the remarks of your contributor "Alter Ego," in your current issue, that he believes that the expulsion of the Jews by Edward I. freed this country from the evils of usury until Cromwell permitted the Jews to return, and that their re-settlement has been of doubtful value to this country.

Both are misconceptions. As to the first, it is only necessary to refer to the recently issued volumes of "Tudor Economic Documents," edited by Mr. Tawney and Miss Power, to see how frequent were complaints as to the harshness of usurers in this country during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

As to the second question, "Alter Ego" might have considered whether any shortcomings attributed to the Jews (and I know of none of any weight which can be substantiated against the Jewish community in general) are not amply compensated for by the numerous new trades which they have introduced into and developed in this country, by the services of the Rothschilds to the Government during the Napoleonic wars, of Disraeli to the Empire, and of the consistent patriotism of the whole community, as evidenced during the late War, when fifty thousand of them (a larger number than their proportion to the general population warrants, judging from the statistics) served in our Forces, gaining five V.C.s and 1,592 other British decorations. Nearly nine thousand of them gave their lives.—I am, etc.,

Charles H. L. Emanuel,
Hon. Sec., The Jewish Press Committee.
23, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, March 31.

["Alter Ego" writes:—"By presuming that I am opposed to the existence of the whole Jewish community in England, Mr. Emanuel exposes himself to the accusation of burdening my words with more than they can bear. Of course, no one would dream of stating that usury is a monopolistic indulgence of the Jews, but even he, one imagines, would scarcely deny that the opposition to them which has from time to time manifested itself in English history is based mainly on a certain adeptness on the part of some of them in the practice of usury. It is perfectly true that complaints against usury were continued in this country in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; it is also true that the banishment of the Jews from England was never complete. The existence, however, of English, Scottish, and Welsh usurers is known to everyone who has studied the matter.

"Since my paragraph was concerned only with the question of usury, no discussion on the indisputable facts in the second part of Mr. Emanuel's letter need arise. It should always be remembered—in fact, it is an axiom—that Great Britain, ever since it has shown real hospitality to the Jews, has consistently attracted the best type of Jew. Certainly no country could wish for more loyal and useful citizens than the type of Jew whom Mr. Emanuel represents, and upon whom he has wrongly supposed I was making reproach."]

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The 1st Battalion, The Buffs, arrived in Gibraltar from Egypt on March 31, after having been away for four months.

Sir Narasimha Sarma's term of office as law member of the Viceroy's Executive Council has been extended till October.

The Rev. Philip Lloyd was consecrated at Bombay Cathedral recently as Assistant Bishop of Bombay. This is the first time that a Bishop for Bombay has been consecrated there.

In Convocation at Oxford on March 10, the Rector of Exeter (Dr. L. R. Farnell), Pro-Vice-Chancellor, presiding, the honorary degree of M.A. was conferred on Mr. Edward J. Thompson, Lecturer in Bengali.

A dispatch from the Governor-General to the Secretary of State for India, enclosing the text of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925, has been published as a White Paper [34, in continuation of Cmd. 2288 of 1924] by H.M. Stationery Office (price 6d.).

The India Office announce that the King's Indian orderly officers for the year will be honorary Captain Chagar Singh, 1-17th Dogra Regt.; honorary Lieut. Lakhi Ram, 1-9th Jat Regt.; Risaldar-Major Lakhpat Singh, 20th Lancers; Subadar-Major Narain Singh, Indian Signal Corps. They arrived at 49, St. George's Road Pimlico, S.W., last Thursday. The British officer-in-charge is Major T. N. Watson, M.C., 5th King Edward's Own (Probyn's Horse).

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 9, 1925 (New Style).
March 27, 1925 (Old Style).
Ramadan 15, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Nisan 15, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Rawlinson sailed last Saturday from Bombay for England.

Lord de Ramsey returned last week to 3, Belgrave Square from Cairo.

Abdul Aziz Pasha Rashid has been appointed first Egyptian Minister to Persia.

Sir Richard Leighton has returned to Loton Park, Shrewsbury, from Baghdad.

Mrs. Austen Chamberlain has returned to 2, Morpeth Mansions, from Greece.

Sir Harold and Lady Snagge have returned to Sandhills, Bletchingley, Surrey, from Egypt.

The Earl and Countess of Plymouth will return to 24, Oxford Square, early in May from India.

Lord Frederick Hamilton arrived on March 31 at 13, Great College Street, from Constantinople.

Mme. Take Jonescu, Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen of Roumania, has arrived in England from New York.

Viscount Ullswater and Viscountess Ullswater will return on April 15 to 33, Great Cumberland Place, from Egypt and Palestine.

Prince Habib Lotfallah was the chief guest at a luncheon given last Friday at the Ritz Restaurant by the National Political League.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Bt., will arrive in Paris from India on May 21, and will be joined there by Lady Grey-Egerton, from 50, Berkeley Square.

The Rev. A. B. F. Cole, who has recently retired from the Lahore diocese, Punjab, has accepted the living of Hutton, near Weston-super-Mare.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Edward Green (95), of The Limes, Wroxham, Norfolk, an Indian Mutiny veteran (net personalty, £3,764), left £4,593.

Dr. W. A. Kennedy, Chief Commissioner in the Near East of the Save the Children Fund, with which the Imperial War Relief Fund is co-operating, arrived in London last Friday.

A marriage has been arranged between the Rev. W. H. Taylor, Chaplain of Jamshedpur, Chota Nagpur, and Sybil Gardiner, youngest daughter of the Rev. C. P. C. Nugent, vicar of Brookland, Kent, and Mrs. Nugent.

The marriage of Alfred Hazell King, Levant Consular Service, only son of the late Mr. F. H. King and Mrs. King, of Winchester, and Mary Eileen, youngest daughter of the late Dr. J. H. Lowry, of Pakhoi, China, and Mrs. R. B. Hunter, of Belfast, will take place shortly after Easter at Athens.

Fayed Sabet Bey, the newly-appointed First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, arrived in London on March 31 from Cairo, and has taken up his residence temporarily at the Carlton Hotel.

M. D. Stancioff, former Bulgarian Minister in London, who has been spending the winter in England, left London on April 1 for Sofia, where his mother died on March 31. Mme. and Mlle. Stancioff will go to Varna, Bulgaria, after Easter.

Shuja-ed-Dowleh Khan, the new Afghan Minister to the Court of St. James, arrived in London last Friday evening from Kabul, accompanied by three secretaries. The new Minister was formerly Governor of Herat and Minister for Public Security.

The engagement is announced between Roderick Sydney, elder son of Sir Sydney Nettleton, Chief Justice of Cyprus, and Lady Nettleton, and Margaret, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., and Mrs. Runciman, of Doxford, Northumberland.

A marriage has been arranged between George Victor Bakewell, O.B.E., M.B., son of the late Mr. George Bakewell, of Loughton, Staffordshire, and Mrs. Bakewell, Beaconsfield, Bucks, and Alice May, eldest daughter of Sir Arnold White, formerly Chief Justice of Madras, and Lady White.

The engagement is announced between Conyers Boldron Toller, Coldstream Guards, only son of the late Victor Conyers Toller, Kilbernie, Northwood, and nephew of the late Dr. Seymour Graves Toller, Cairo, and Annette, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Scott, 134, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, W.

Mme. Yovanovitch gave a luncheon on April 1 at Claridge's to Mrs. Baldwin, when her other guests included the Dowager Lady Boyle, Lady Walpole, the Hon. Mrs. Donough O'Brien, Lady Henry, the Marchioness Townshend, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Eckstein, Lady Doverdale, and Agnes Lady Walsingham.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925.

ASIA AND THE SOVIET.

Although the attention now being paid to the East by the Soviet Government of Russia is no new development, it is inevitable that, with each fresh disappointment in the West, Moscow should rely more and more upon Asia to provide additional scope for its activities. The rebuff administered by the last General Election in Great Britain has found significant echoes in other parts of Europe. In France the *de jure* recognition of the Soviet Government has hardly had the results that were expected of it in Russia, and M. Rykoff, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, can only hold out hopes that "France and the Soviet Union may reach an agreement both in the Near and Middle East." Bolshevism has received a marked set-back in the Balkans, where the Pashitch Government has used the menace to such good effect that the party on which the Soviets were building their expectations in regard to Yugoslavia has definitively aligned itself with the monarchical Constitution. Against these and other hard facts the eloquence of stray British Communists in Moscow, or as far afield as Turkestan, will not offer much consolation. It may be true, as one of them is reported to have said, that great efforts are now being made to disintegrate armies of capitalist countries, and that, according to another "comrade," the hour is near when the British Communist Party, working under the guidance and leadership of the Comintern, will appeal for help to Tashkent Communists "when it needs the assistance of the nations of Central Asia to smash once and for ever this hated British Imperialism." But even if such perfervid utterances deceive both speakers and audience, the information of the Soviet Secret Service must create misgivings in the minds of the Moscow authorities as to the financial capacity of Sovietism to win the long-drawn struggle against what it finds it convenient to dub capitalism. They can be relied upon, however, to keep to themselves any misgivings on the subject that they may have; they will see to it that successes in Asia are made more of than reverses in Europe, and they will use them as far as possible to recover lost ground in the latter. Inasmuch as Great Britain is regarded as the principal enemy of Bolshevism, it is advisable that Soviet activities in Asia should be followed as closely as those in England, even though the chances of definite injury to British interests seem remote.

Present Soviet strategy is directed to drawing a pro-Russian anti-British cordon round India, in the hope of being able, through the secession of the latter, to undermine the British Empire. It is from the point of view of Moscow an inspiring objective, and we should be foolish to ignore the fact that other reasons than love of Bolshevism can be found among the nations to cause some at least of them to welcome opportunities of twisting the British lion's tail. The more apparent the failure of Communist doctrines, the more ready may some Governments be to enter into agreements with the Soviets, in the belief that they are thereby preparing for the time when Russia may pass, possibly without serious upheaval, to a more normal frame of mind. Moscow's main concern has naturally been to establish touch with Japan and China. The Russo-Japanese Treaty signed on January 21 is a measure of the success of its policy in one direction. In China the active representative of Moscow has presumably reason to be satisfied with the progress that he is making when his American colleague feels called upon to characterise him publicly as a dangerous and mischievous adviser of the Government to which he is accredited. M. Karakhan, the Soviet representative in Peking, is probably as much at sea as the rest of the Diplomatic Corps in the present political chaos of China, but it is easy to see the aim that he has in view when he recommends all the claimants to power to tear up the treaties that China has made with foreign countries. Chinese pacificism is unlikely to lend itself to the whole programme of Soviet aggression; but in the antipathy to foreigners Moscow may detect a favourable jumping-off ground for its designs. West of India the Soviets have a treaty with Persia, which in itself does not constitute any marked diplomatic triumph. The Persians stand to gain in certain minor matters, and a clause stipulating that there shall be no interference by either Power in the internal affairs of the other would represent Moscow in a particularly self-denying mood were it not for the fact that Bolshevist propaganda is quite openly and unblushingly active in Persia. The value of winning various Central Asian tribes to Bolshevism would appear problematical but for the ingenious policy elaborated by the Soviet of seeking to provide, as it were, a geographical Day of Pentecost, so that India may be permeated from over the border by the comfortable doctrine of anti-British Communism in all the tongues to which she is accustomed. Afghanistan would offer a more immediately profitable field if success at headquarters were not apt to be stultified by the incorrigible xenophobia of the nation as a whole.

In the face of these Soviet activities the question of the best policy to be pursued by Great Britain arises. Few people will be inclined to place reliance on the negative measure proposed in the abortive Anglo-Russian Agreement, in which Moscow undertook to refrain from anti-British propaganda. On the other hand, the policy of playing off the British Codlin against the Soviet Short is not one to commend itself, and with these alternatives the opportunities for definite action seem at first sight to be exhausted. The menace, however, although not one to be ignored, does not call for panic measures. If it is fated that the Pamirs, or an Uzbeg republic, or even Afghanistan, is to overthrow the last prop of the British Empire in India, the undermining will have been merited. For the rest, British diplomacy, being forewarned, should be equal to the task of counteracting the Soviet dream of a Germano-Russo-Sino-Japanese Alliance, doing the bidding of Moscow. There remains the value of more active participation in the material progress of the backward countries which the Soviets are endeavouring to exploit for anti-British ends. This is not the place to indicate any scheme in detail. The civilising influence of trade and railways is an axiom; in some countries the rôle of the latter may perhaps have to be taken up in the future by the airship. A Government has little difficulty in obtaining the credits needed for prosecuting a war; it may be that the British nation will allow itself to be educated up to an appreciation of the saving in expenditure entailed in credits for the maintenance of peace. When that day comes, it will seem as natural for the Foreign Office to mobilise trade for the furtherance of its policy as it was for the War Office in the late War to mobilise industrial enterprises.

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BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE AND THE MANDATE.

By ERNEST RICHMOND.

(*Continued from page 352.*)

[The following article is extracted from a long essay, the preliminary part of which Mr. Richmond devoted to a comparison of the mandate for Palestine (Command Paper 1785) with the White Paper (Command 1700). His purpose is "to expose discrepancies, to refer to actual consequences, to indicate future possibilities, to suggest the cause of anomalies and their remedy." Although we do not agree with Mr. Richmond's views, we think them well worthy of attention.—Ed.]

Great Britain has the alternatives before her of either continuing her present expensive course, which involves basing her actions and methods on force, or of adopting the course of relying upon British influence and the capacity of the Jews to make good by a legitimate use of their resources and capacity, without privileges which can only be accorded them at the expense of Arab interests and result in conditions which must react unfavourably not only to England and to the Arabs, but also to Jewish aspirations: for a preferential attitude towards the Jews and artificial assistance accorded to the Jews by a partisan administration accentuate Arab opposition, exasperate Arab sentiment, and thereby construct a stumbling-block for the Jews.

If Great Britain were to grant what she has promised, beginning with the reasonable measure of independence which the Arabs of Palestine are prepared to accept, she would clear her name and at the same time clear the way for using, on legitimate and peaceful lines, her best endeavours to fulfil her engagements to the Jew.

Is Great Britain, then, to continue methods of coercion which breed antagonism to ourselves and to the Jews, or is she, by reason and influence, to induce conviction and a working measure of agreement? Which method is the more likely to ensure peace and the one likely to promise success in the long run?

The time is past when we can force an unwelcome political theory on an unwilling people: moreover, if we continue to use methods of usurpation and coercion which generate local opposition, are we sure that we shall not in time excite a wider opposition, the opposition of a section of Christendom as well as of Islam?

Can England guarantee keeping in Palestine a sufficient force for the period needed to consolidate the Jewish power in Palestine till it is strong enough to resist onslaughts by natives and by surrounding Arab peoples, assisted, perhaps prompted, as the Arabs might well be, by foreign elements by no means friendly to this country?

England can guarantee none of this. Methods of coercion exasperate the local Arabs, may affect adversely other and more powerful opinion, and cause a dislike for the Jew to be generated in the Near East. Hence such methods are as unfair to the Jews as they are to ourselves and to the Arabs.

The question arises, Are the people of Palestine really fit to be entrusted with any power? There are people in England who have been led to believe that Syria and Palestine are sparsely populated by wandering Bedouin, devoid of education, incapable of "progress," easily subjected to whatever their rulers may desire, provided that enough "strength" is shown. This is a false picture.

The people of Syria, including Palestine, are a mixed race. Their forefathers played their part in some of the famous civilisations of the world. For centuries, under the Turk, they have had little chance, and none in their own country. Outside their own country they have, however, proved their capacity. Many have migrated to Europe, to America, to Egypt, and to the Sudan. In these countries they have prospered in trade and in commerce; in administration they have shown capacity, and can claim distinction even in science.

It is difficult to see what Great Britain can have to fear from fulfilling her promises. It is easier to see what she must face if she does not do so: loss of good name, unnecessary expenditure on troops, distrust at least of a section of Islam, the enmity, also, of the Jews if things go wrong, the possibility, in an attempt to escape that enmity, of becoming entangled in an Arabian war, of which our enemies could hardly be expected not to take advantage. Where would such a state of affairs end?

A Secretary of State for the Colonies has said in the House of Lords that the terms of the mandate cannot be altered, that to alter them would be equivalent to abandoning the mandate. This statement, like so many statements made in Parliament, has a colour of truth and is at the same time misleading. To alter the terms of the instrument under which we act as Mandatory in Palestine would, of course, in a sense, be equivalent to abandoning that instrument in favour of another; but would the intimation to the League of Nations that we found it necessary to ask for an alteration be equivalent to abandoning Palestine? That is for the League of Nations to say. If the League of Nations agree to the proposed alterations we can remain as Mandatory, if we and the League so desire. Should the League inform us that the terms of the mandate cannot be altered, and that if we feel unable to give effect to them the League must find some other Power to do so, then the people of this country must decide, after being placed in possession of a knowledge of all the facts, whether Great Britain's best interests would be best served by retaining the mandate or by abandoning it.

It is to be noted that to abandon the mandate would entail no breach of faith either to Jews or Arabs, for it is not necessary for Great Britain to be in Palestine in order to use her best endeavours to facilitate the establishment in that country of a national home for the Jews, nor is it necessary for her to be there to recognise and to support the

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independence of the Arabs in that country. Both promises can, of course, be fulfilled by diplomatic methods.

It may be added that the mandate has already been altered. The alteration did not entail its abandonment, and was, moreover, important, for it excluded Transjordan from the operation of the national home clauses. Hence it can be altered. Why, then, should it remain in its present form? What objections can there be to seeking from the League of Nations, for our guidance in Palestine, terms that are in agreement with British promises and in harmony with British traditions, instead of the present terms, which are neither the one nor the other, and are, moreover, a danger to the peace, the preservation of which is the main object of the League of Nations.

(Concluded.)

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

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"TURKEY IN TRAVAIL." The Birth of a New Nation. By Harold Armstrong. (London: The Bodley Head. Price, 8s. 6d. net.)

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NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

The Near and Middle East Association gave a reception on April 1 at 64, Queen's Gate, kindly lent for the occasion by the Dowager Lady Boyle, who was the hostess of the evening. The Dowager Lady Boyle, to whom a bouquet was presented on behalf of the Committee, was assisted in receiving a numerous assembly by Sir Edward and Lady Boyle.

After messages of good wishes from Major-Gen. Lord Edward Gleichen, President of the Association, and other absent members, for the success of the evening, had been read by Dr. E. H. Griffin, a short but excellent programme of music was performed. Senor Brosa, the Spanish violinist, who played recently at the Albert Hall; Miss Harley Bacon ('cellist), a member of the Association; and Mr. Percy Kahn, the eminent accompanist, performed two movements of a Trio of Handel; and Signor Rangoni, the Italian tenor, sang four songs—among which were an Istrian folk song, a Neapolitan lullaby, and the aria from "La Tosca," "E Lucevan Le Stelle"—with considerable power of dramatic expression. Miss Idina Scott-Gatty, a young diseuse, followed with some clever recitations with music; and the programme concluded with violin soli beautifully played by Senor Brosa and accompanied with his usual skill by Mr. Percy Kahn. These pieces included the "Poéme" by Baron d'Erlanger (who was unavoidably prevented at the last moment from playing the accompaniment), the "Hymn to the Sun," from "Le Coq d'Or," Kreisler's brilliant "Tambourin Chinois," and Tod Boyd's "Samoan Lullaby." The attention with which the large audience listened to the programme bore witness to the success of the artists, to whom Lord Lamington, Vice-President of the Association, said a few words of thanks on behalf of those present. His Lordship then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Dowager Lady Boyle, as hostess of the evening, and to Viscountess Dupplin, who had arranged the programme, which was seconded amid much applause.

Among the many who accepted invitations were: The Albanian Minister, the Austrian Minister (represented by Herr Kunz), the Bulgarian Minister, the Czecho-Slovakian Minister (represented by the Counsellor), the Esthonian Minister, the German Ambassador (represented by Baron Plessen and Herr von Mumm), the Hungarian Minister (represented by the First Secretary), the Polish Minister, the Roumanian Minister; the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, and the Persian Chargé d'Affaires and M. Ardalani, Madame Yovanovitch and M. and Mme. Smodlaka; Princess Dolgorouki, Prince Habib Lotfallah, Viscountess Combermere, Viscountess Dupplin, Lord Lamington, Lord Headley, Gen. Sir Charles and Lady Harington, Brig.-Gen. Sir George Macaulay, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Sir Griffith Boynton, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Sir Aurel Stein, Sir William Clark, Sir John Foster Fraser, Mme. Stancioff, Count Medin, Archdeacon Beresford Potter and Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Hubert Walter, Major and Mrs. Workman, Mr. Henry Nevinson, Miss Edith Durham, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Spender, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Mr. J. M. N. Jeffries, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dick, Mrs. Arthur Laye, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Frew.

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EGYPT IN ENGLAND.

King Fuad's Birthday Celebrations.

The anniversary of the birthday of his Majesty King Fuad I. was celebrated with considerable *éclat* in London by an afternoon Reception on March 25 and a dinner on March 26, given in each case at Claridge's Hotel by Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires. On the first day the entire Lounge of the Hotel was given up to the Reception, and tea was served in the Restaurant; the Egyptian flag flew over the Hotel, the salons were decorated with the Egyptian national colours, and several portraits of King Fuad were displayed in prominent places. Claridge's Band entertained the guests with a programme of Eastern music, which was opened with the Egyptian National Anthem. Among those present were the members of the Egyptian colony in England, with its large proportion of students, representatives of the British Government and Diplomatic Corps, and many others, including :—

Lord and Lady Strathspey, Lady Wyndham, Lord Headley, Mr. J. B. Monck, the Marquis de Bucy, Lady Grant Napier and Ettrick, Comte Meredyth de Miremont, Catherine Countess of Westmorland, Mr. G. Mounsey, Sir George and Lady Albu and Miss Albu, Priscilla Countess of Annesley, Sir George and Lady Harvey, Sir Charles and Lady Walpole, the Marchioness Townshend, Mrs. Sutherst, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Lady Alexander, Lady Muir MacKenzie, the Hon. Mrs. Robert Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. Donough O'Brien, Mr. R. J. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. Tite, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Montague Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Beaty Pownall, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hebard, Judge and Mrs. Edward Harrington, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Bruce-Dick, Mr. Louis Campbell-Johnston, the Misses Scholefield, Miss Spring-Smyth, Mr. Cotterill, Mr. Fielding Boyd, Mr. W. S. Paterson, Mr. Hamilton Lamplugh, Professor Edward Hindle, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Captain A. Holland, Mrs. Charles Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Read Davies, Mr. F. D. Cairns, Colonel and Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Sir Griffith Boynton, and Mr. J. A. McCandlish.

The Dinner the following evening was an equally successful function. Those present included Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, the Hon. Victor Wellesley and Mrs. Wellesley, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith and Miss Enid McIlwraith, Sir George Harvey Pasha and Lady Harvey, the Hon. Mervyn Herbert and Mrs. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Walford Selby, Mr. and Mrs. MacCallan, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. M. Bland, Mr. and Mrs. Hebard, Messrs. F. S. Hamalawy, Soubhi Is-Hak, Mohamed Kamel Moursy Bey, A. R. Fikry Bey, Murad Heshmat, M. and Mme. El Sadek Bey, and Sheikh Abdel Wahab Azzam.

In the name of those present on the two occasions a telegram of homage and congratulations was despatched to King Fuad through the Grand Chamberlain.

The congratulations and good wishes of King George V. to King Fuad were conveyed to Sesostris Sidarouss Bey by Mr. C. H. Montgomery, Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, who was received in the hall of Claridge's Hotel by the Chargé d'Affaires and the Staff of the Legation. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, who immediately returned the visit at the Foreign Office, was also the recipient of congratulations on the occasion of King Fuad's birthday from Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Earl of Cromer, Colonel Sir George Crichton, and Mr. J. B. Monck, as well as from many others out of London who sent telegrams.

In proposing the toast of the evening at the Dinner Sesostris Sidarouss Bey said :—

"On this happy occasion of the birthday of my august Sovereign King Fuad I., I beg you to permit me to express to you the profound gratitude and warm appreciation of his Egyptian Majesty's Legation in London for your participation with us in this meeting and in celebrating our King's anniversary. It will give his Majesty much pleasure to hear that his Legation in London have succeeded in making the relations which exist between your great country and ours, as manifested in this meeting, more cordial and more happy, as indeed they should be for the very best interests of the two nations. The strengthening

KING FUAD I.

of the bonds of mutual understanding and friendship is the first and most important task of the members of Legations in the countries where they serve. In our case we deem it not only our duty, but also our pleasure, to perform this task by all the means at our disposal.

"In every profession there is an objective test or a human criterion with which the degree of success or failure is determined. If we describe diplomacy as a profession, and include diplomats in the category of professional people, I believe the most accurate test of their success or failure is the degree of trust and confidence which they inspire in the country to which they are accredited. Judged by this very harsh standard of failure or success in inspiring trust and confidence, I do not know what sort of result we may be allowed to deserve or expect. In any case our consolation would be that the period of our mission in London has been too short to allow for the application of a test. You know very well that tests, in order to be correct, must be applied to normal times and for what is described in politics and economics as long-period circumstances.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Egypt has been passing through the most difficult stage of her political, economic, and social career. It is usually the case

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that periods of transition have their ups and downs, interruptions and convulsions, and are always entangled by human excitements, and to this human rule Egypt cannot make an exception. Happily, the best and most responsible elements in the country on whom Egypt, as well as other countries, confidently depends for the solution of complex problems are determined to make this temporary stage as short and as continuous as possible. They are resolved to work seriously and laboriously for a constructive policy in accordance with the traditions and needs of Egypt. In this task they are guided and inspired by the wisdom of his Majesty the King. They are determined at any cost to speed up education and to place it within the reach of all classes, male and female; because we are aware that in the last resort political and economic questions are finally settled by the degree of enlightenment of public opinion. The process of instruction and reform will, naturally, be slow and difficult but it will be stable and firm. Egypt, I am proud to say, has been blessed in these so difficult circumstances by having in the person of its present great Monarch a worthy son of Mohamed Aly, and a real genius of constructive statesmanship. You may be astonished to learn of the hard work he gets through every day, quietly and without interruption, for the welfare and progress of his loyal people. Since his return from Europe, after he studied in the Military Academy and Artillery School of Turin, and as a young Prince, he has entirely devoted himself to the civilising work of his country. Indeed, his aim has been to accomplish the wish of his illustrious father, Ismail Pasha, and to make Egypt part of Europe.

"You may observe the activities of his Majesty in all the domains of social, economic, and humanitarian institutions, amongst which are the Egyptian University and La Société d'Economie Politique de Statistique et de Législation, which were created principally by his zeal and energy. The Egyptian Institute and the Geographical Society owe much gratitude for their regeneration and reorganisation to his Majesty's endeavours. The International Association for Public Assistance, which gives succour to the distressed of all nationalities, has been created by his Majesty. He takes great interest in the progress of education in all its phases, and the Schools of his family domain are model institutions for order and efficiency. Since his accession to the Throne, educational missions to all parts of Europe are being sent in large numbers. In the domain of health his Majesty's activities have not been below those in the matter of education. He has instituted all sorts of hospitals in Cairo and in the provinces, and in this respect the hospitals of the Wakfs have been made examples of organisation and efficiency to the other ones.

"You may be glad to know that private aid to human institutions is being encouraged by his Majesty in a way without precedent in Egypt. Decorations and awards conferred by his Majesty have been confined solely to those who contribute to humanitarian service, and the degree of honour has become a standard of the degree of contribution to humanity.

"If we celebrate together this evening the happy occasion of the birthday of King Fuad, we are really celebrating the benevolent deeds of a great Monarch, who is doing so much for his country and for the welfare of his people.

"In this task of construction we rely on the sympathies of our European friends in general and our British friends and future allies in particular. Great Britain has inspired for long generations, and on many occasions, all the large and small nations of the world. It has more than once guided small nations at the most difficult moments in the right path. This sympathetic guidance will, I am sure, be always accorded to Egypt, the youngest independent nation and the oldest servant of humanity. I have the great honour, in conclusion, to ask you to drink to the health of his Majesty King George V. and his Majesty King Fuad I. May I ask you once again, ladies and gentlemen, to unite with me in a toast to the eternal friendship of Great Britain and Egypt."

SESOSTRIS SIDAROUSS BEY.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, who has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Egyptian Legation in the absence of the Minister, Aziz Izzet Pasha, was appointed Counsellor of Legation at the beginning of the year. The descendant of a well-known Coptic family in Egypt, he was educated at St. Andrew's School in Alexandria, and completed his secondary studies at the Alexandria Jesuits' College, where he took his French degree with honours. After graduating subsequently in Paris University with distinction, he was for several years Private Secretary to the British Judicial Adviser in Egypt. From 1907 to 1922 he held the Chair of Civil Law at the Government Law School in Cairo. Elected Judge of the Mixed Court of Cairo in 1922, he held the post for one year only before being appointed to the Egyptian Diplomatic Corps, with the rank of First Secretary in Paris. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey is well known as a writer on legal and scientific subjects, and is also a notable linguist, with a knowledge, apart from Arabic, of English, French, Italian, Greek, and Latin.

Lord Balfour has accepted an invitation from the British community in Alexandria to a dinner on April 13, when he will deliver a speech.

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LONDON, E.C.4.
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At chief towns in Mesopotamia and Persia.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Near East at Wembley.

I gather that the buildings devoted to Near Eastern exhibits will make a much more pretentious showing when Wembley opens on May 6 than was the case a year ago. Palestine this time will occupy the whole of the pavilion which formerly housed Cyprus as well, and in general the Palestinian exhibits will give a much more comprehensive view of the country's possibilities. Internally the pavilion will strike a new note. Last year there were so many stands ranged down the centre that it was a matter of some difficulty to move about. All the centre has now been cleared, and the interior is being arranged to represent a street in Jerusalem, with the Jaffa gate at one end.

Cyprus and the Sudan.

Cyprus is transferred from the Palestine Pavilion to that one formerly occupied by Fiji. The back of this building faces the Amusement Park, and the excellent idea has been conceived of adding a wing on that side with an entrance from the Park. Outside the entrance provision will be made for light refreshments. As to the exhibits, it can only be said at the moment that they will be more varied than last year. As the admirable Cyprus exhibits were then one of the most interesting features of the Near Eastern section of the Exhibition, it may be taken for granted that the pavilion will never lack visitors on this occasion. To the Sudan, too, one looks for more than last year. Of all the Near Eastern countries, none has a greater opportunity for a popular display than this one, and none, it may be added, is capable of making a greater popular appeal, for the possibilities of the Sudan as a cotton-growing centre are now widely appreciated here, and it is to be hoped that the fullest advantage will be taken of Wembley to demonstrate the outstanding features of this land of promise.

India's Trade.

Very interesting speeches were made at the annual meetings of the National Bank of India and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China by Sir Charles McLeod and Sir Montagu Turner. Dealing with trade conditions in India, Sir Charles McLeod pointed out that the export trade has been fairly active, and that high prices have been obtained for India's principal exports, such as jute, cotton, tea, rice, and wheat. Reference was made by both speakers to the effect on India's import trade of the high price of Lancashire cotton goods. Sir Montagu said that the position of the piece goods market in India might be described as fairly healthy, as stocks are not at an abnormally high figure. He added that he understood that Manchester was now trying to meet the market, but that, unfortunately, Italy was now a keen competitor with Manchester in the supply of coloured and printed goods. In 1924 Italy's imports into India were valued at about Rs.30 lakhs, and Sir Montagu stated that it is understood that large forward indents were placed for delivery in 1925. When it is added that Italy's prices are from 25 to 50 per cent. below Manchester's it will be realised how difficult the position is, more especially in view of the very uncertain outlook as regards the price of cotton. Thanks to the good American crop, the position may be described as easy at the moment, but no one can tell what the next crop will be like, and if it should turn out to be considerably below that of the previous year there will inevitably be a cotton shortage, followed by a sharp rise in prices.

Competition in Egypt.

Mr. J. Davies Bryan, president of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, dealt in the course of his report, at the recent annual meeting of that body, with the question of competition in the Egyptian market. He pointed out that the Customs returns show that the United Kingdom is not quite holding its own in the market, and that other sources of supply are active in competition with our manufacturers. "Possibly, in some respects," he added, "these firms are working under more favourable conditions than our makers, but they also have their difficulties. I would take as an example the great advances made by Italian factories in the production of certain goods which hitherto have been regarded as the monopoly of British firms. There is a country entirely dependent for its coal and petrol on supplies from abroad, and yet the whole land hums with the buzz of machinery working at full pressure and at all hours of the day and night." He went on to emphasise the point that Italy possesses a great advantage in possessing the "will-to-do," while at home there is not the atmosphere in industrial centres that arises from the whole population having given itself up to work. The president further added that he believed the appalling ignorance of markets abroad is one of the main causes of the decline of British trade, and it is to be feared that there is only too much foundation for his statement that British traders will not take the trouble to study the needs of possible markets. It has been so in the case of many parts of the Near East, at any rate.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: - **16, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.**

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P., P.C.
Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO.

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

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YUGOSLAV POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

The balance of the Yugoslav Postal Savings Bank for 1924 shows that the business on cheque accounts amounted to about 32 milliard dinars, as compared with the following totals in previous years: — 1919, 929,004,353.48; 1920, 2,633,168,476.88; 1921, 7,976,574,515.58; 1922, 17,266,598,019.85; 1923, 26,399,620,216.75; 1924, 31,621,558,843.93.

The total business on all accounts amounted during the year to over 65 milliard dinars. This was on the average ten times greater than that of any large bank in the Kingdom.

The figures show that the Yugoslav Postal Savings Bank is developing rapidly. Although also it pays only 2 per cent. on current accounts, while the banks pay 10 per cent. and over, yet even these accounts amounted at the end of 1924 to 405,153,923.99 dinars. The Savings Bank's deposits show signs this year of rapid expansion, as a result of their great liquidity and the State's unlimited guarantee for all its liabilities. With this great influx of deposits, the Postal Savings Bank is becoming daily a more and more important source of credit for the whole country. Its system of branches all over the Kingdom (it has 1,700 main and 400 secondary branches) make the Bank the chief cheque and clearing institution in Yugoslavia. Its function as a Treasury Department of the State is also growing daily in importance. In the same way it is gaining importance on the financial market, especially with regard to State bonds.

The opening has just taken place of the Moulmein to Ye railway, which forms the first step in linking up the Burma railways with those of the Federated Malay States and Siam.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Commercial Bank of the Near East.

The report of the Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., for the year 1924 states that the net profit for the year was £10,239 11s. 7d.; add the balance brought forward from the year ended December 31, 1923, £342 4s. 7d.—£10,581 16s. 2d.; deduct interim dividend at 8 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, for the half-year ended June 30, 1924, which was paid on September 30, 1924, £4,666 2s. 5d., leaving a balance of £5,915 13s. 9d. The directors recommend the distribution of this amount as follows:—To write off one-half of the balance, £1,229 1s. 2d., of preliminary expenses, £614 10s. 7d.; to transfer to reserve fund, including the 5 per cent. required by the Articles of Association, £1,000; to payment of a final dividend for the half-year to December 31, 1924, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 4s. 6d. per £, making a total payment for the year of 7 per cent., £4,000 9s. 10d.; to carry forward to the current year, £210 13s. 4d.—£5,915 13s. 9d.

The Roumanian Chamber of Deputies have passed a measure prolonging until the end of June the Moratorium granted to Roumanian debtors in respect of private debts to foreigners. The Moratorium was due to expire at the close of the present month.

Sir William M. Acworth, whose death occurred last week, in his 75th year, was a railway expert whose reputation extended far beyond Great Britain. He was selected as Chairman of the Committee on Indian Railway Policy and Administration appointed in 1920. The report of this Committee condemned the existing conditions of the Indian railways as due to a paralysing system of finance and financial control, and recommended the re-casting of the Railway Board with the establishment of a new Department of Communications for railways, ports and inland navigation, road transport, and posts and telegraphs.

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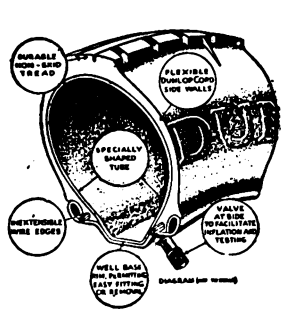

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Shipping Intelligence.

VARNA'S POOR TRADE IN 1924.

The year 1924 is regarded as the worst ever experienced for trade at the port of Varna, and both wholesale and retail firms have found it very difficult to keep going. Several factors besides political considerations contributed to this depression, among them being the disappointing crops, the low price of tobacco abroad, and over-trading (says a report from the British Legation at Sofia). Trade was so good in 1921 and 1922 that small importers and merchants were encouraged to develop business beyond its normal capacity. It also encouraged a great many employees of import firms to open on their own account, without sufficient capital and little experience, but with high hopes and long credits from abroad. The results were begun to be felt last year, and they have contributed greatly to the present crisis. Large stocks were ordered abroad, which it has not been possible to place in the country, with the consequence that merchants are overstocked and are unable to meet their engagements.

The depression in trade is clearly allied to and partly responsible for the very difficult economic situation. Unemployment has increased, and has reached a figure hitherto unknown in Varna, while at the same time the cost of living has increased. The situation is rendered more difficult by the fact that there are in the town about a thousand refugees from the Dobruja and from Macedonia—the majority without work—besides seven hundred Russian refugees detained in camp and fed by the Bulgarian Government. Winter began early this season, and the cost of wood for fuel, from 500 levas per ton in October last, reached 950 levas in December.

There are on foot several schemes to open factories for tinning and preserving fish, and for the development of the fishing industry, but difficulty is experienced in finding the necessary capital.

The exports following upon the harvesting of the 1923 crop—*i.e.*, from August 1, 1923, to July 31, 1924—were (in wagons):—Wheat, 2,119; maize, 6,493; beans, 2,070; barley, 94; flour, 664.

The last wheat crop was very light, and in consequence the export of the grain has been prohibited. The export of flour, however, is still permitted, but is not considerable, owing to the loss of the Constantinople market. The crop of beans is up to the average of the past two years, but the wet weather in the summer spoilt the quality, and exporters have had difficulty in placing consignments abroad. The maize crop, no doubt, will also prove to be up to the average of the past two years, but the recent arrivals of grain on the market have not been quite dry, and shipments, except to Marseilles, have been held back.

Exports this year are far from satisfactory generally. An agricultural country like Bulgaria could produce very much more grain for export, and its failure to do so can only be attributed to the somewhat out-of-date methods employed in agriculture. The cultivation of tobacco in the Varna district is increasing each year. Bourgas is, however, the chief port for its export. It is satisfactory to note that better prices have been obtained this season for Bulgarian tobacco sent abroad.

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. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Gazana for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 11); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 11).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunedin for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 24).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, May 1); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 11); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 2); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, April 18).

The exports of tea from Ceylon during 1924 amounted to 203,680,000 lbs.

Yugoslavia's exports in January totalled 334,462 metric tons, of the value of 762,717,054 dinars. The principal exports were:—Maize, 194,900,000 dinars; wood, 108,200,000 dinars; and flour, 40,100,000 dinars.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that the TWENTY-SECOND ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank, in Cairo, on Wednesday, the 15th April, 1925, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1925.
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 3rd April, 1925), when cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In EGYPT—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In LONDON—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

B. HORNSBY, President.

Cairo, 12th March, 1925.

ANCHOR LINE
LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.
KARACHI viz Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDA, April 28. *CIRCASSIA, June 12.
*ELYSIA, May 29. *OLYMPIA, June 26.
*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

Another Dull Week.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended April 4 states :—

Another unsatisfactory week has been experienced. In no department has there been any activity worthy of note. The explanation must apparently be looked for in a lack of confidence as to the maintenance of the present level of prices. Buying has, therefore, been almost entirely of a hand-to-mouth character, small lots being the order of the day.

A conference was held yesterday of all sections of the trade, including bleaching, dyeing, and finishing, at which the state of the industry was discussed in all its bearings with a view to a solution being found which would put the trade on a sound basis once more. Naturally, on a subject of such magnitude, little result could be expected at the first meeting, but another has been arranged for an early date.

Yarn.—There is very little change to report during the past week. Business has remained of small dimensions, and as has been the case for so long past, the amount of orders booked bears little relation to the volume of the inquiry. Egyptian yarns have not fallen to the same extent as Egyptian cotton, but of course this was not possible, since spinners have never been able to obtain more than a fraction of the rise.

Cloth.—A very quiet week has been experienced, and there has been a virtual absence of bookings of any large lines. Numerous small lots have changed hands, but the total is quite inadequate. Indian demand in particular has been disappointing, and only a small percentage of offers from that quarter has proved acceptable by manufacturers. China also has done very little, but there has been a somewhat livelier demand from Egypt.

Raw Cotton.—American quotations moved downward in the early part of the week, but most of the fall was recovered later. As regards the new season, reports are current that last year's acreage, which was in itself a record, will be slightly increased, whilst the general weather conditions recently have been good. There has been a very severe break in prices of Egyptian, the fall between Friday and Tuesday last being no less than 4d. per lb. There has since been a slight recovery, but the tone is uncertain. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows: American Middling, 13.72; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 33.15.

GUARDIAN EASTERN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 68, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Subscribed Capital - - - £650,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £130,000

The Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd. (Established 1821), owns one-fourth of the Capital above mentioned.

Directors:
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All the principal classes of Insurance business transacted.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Two Bombay cotton mills have closed down.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended March 27 was: Gemsah, 26 tons; Hurghada, 3,457 tons.

It is reported that the area under cotton in Russia this year is 133 per cent. greater than in the previous twelve months.

The output of Phœnix Oil and Transport for March was 28,638 tons, while the throughput of the refineries was 25,948 tons.

The Banque de Crédit Roumain made a profit in 1924 of 45,080,163 lei, including 2,325,527 lei brought forward from the previous year.

Fire partially destroyed the large village of Abu, in the Giza province of Egypt, last Thursday. Over twenty-eight persons are known to have lost their lives.

The directors of the Bombay Gas Company recommend a final dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. (less tax), making 8 per cent. for 1924, the same as for 1923.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended March 7 amounted to Rs. 9,94,151, making the total for the year to date Rs. 4,58,86,627.

There was a considerable increase in Ceylon's exports of tea, rubber, and coconut palm products in 1924 as compared with 1923, but plumbago exports showed a decline.

The Turkish National Assembly has voted an extraordinary credit of 15,000,000 liras for the Navy, spread over a period of five years, and 3,000,000 liras for the Air Force.

The offices of the New Caucasian Oilfields and the Caucasian (Tchermoeff) Oilfields have removed from 34, Nicholas Lane, E.C.4, to 76, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.2.

The profit of the Constantinople Land and Building Co. for 1924 was £3,204, as against £3,281 for 1923. A dividend of 3 per cent. is again proposed, and the carry forward is raised from £2,700 to £3,967.

Indian shellac shipments between March 1 and 15 totalled 9,961 cwt., the destinations being as follows:—The United Kingdom, 2,066 cwt.; the Continent, 4,046 cwt.; the United States, 2,942 cwt.; and 907 cwt. to various other countries.

A *modus vivendi* has been reached between the Egyptian and French Governments regarding the status of Syrians and Lebanese in Egypt. Henceforth Syrian and Lebanese citizens passing through Egypt or establishing themselves in this country will be considered as placed under French protection.

The King's medal for the best shot in the Forces serving in India was competed for on the Meerut ranges during March and resulted in a win for a Gurkha rifleman. The conditions were battle practice firing with a highest possible of 400 points. The top scores are as follows:—1. The King's medal.—Naik Suba Sing Lama, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles, 283; 2. Lance-Corporal Cole, Simla Rifles, 282. These two marksmen are also the respective champions of the British Army in India and of the Indian Army.

The figures for Czecho-Slovakia's export trade in February show a slight increase on January and a considerable one compared with February of last year. The value of the February exports was kc. 1,517,710,744. The main items of export were textiles, sugar, coal, timber, and glass and glassware. There was a pronounced increase in textile exports, in grain, and in iron and machinery, while sugar declined by 57 millions. England, in spite of a considerable drop of 32 millions, due to less sugar imports, still maintains third place in the list of Czecho-Slovakia's customers.

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) announce that the board has received the following additional information from the manager on the field in regard to No. 8 well, Gura Ocnitei:—"The oil sand was reached at 909 metres, 3 metres were drilled into it and the casing set to bottom. It was impossible to drill deeper owing to the flowing of the well, and the last joint of casing was only inserted with great difficulty and with some danger to the crew. The oil was reached at the expected depth and the hole finished in perfect order. There are all the signs of this being a good well. Connection has already been made to one pipeline, and work is proceeding with the connection to an alternative one."

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) has received telegraphic advice from the field to the effect that a second well (No. 4) has also struck oil on the company's Gura Ocnitei property. This well is situated in the south-eastern corner of the company's area, and, it is stated, indicates that oil underlies the property throughout its length.

WANTED.

HAIR of every description wanted. Cow body hair, cow tail hair, horse hair. Send samples and prices—M. JOFFE, 21 & 23 Brasenose Road, Bankhall, Liverpool.

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BULGARIA'S FINANCE AND TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, April 1.

The Budget.

The Budget for the financial year beginning April 1 has now been drawn up. It balances at 6,840 million levas (£10,500,000 at the current rate of exchange). There is thus an increase of 200 million levas over last year's Budget. The service of the public debt absorbs 1,444,573,000 levas, the army 1,193,720,000 levas, railways and ports 877,745,000 levas, and education 689,702,000 levas. In the amount allocated for the service of the public debt is included all war charges. The size of the Army Budget is partly to be explained by the fact that the voluntary system of enlistment is much more costly than the conscript system. Although the Budget balances the pay of the State employees is not considered to have been increased to any great extent, despite the allowance of a special sum of 300 million levas.

Revenue is composed of 2,890,000,000 levas from indirect taxes, 970,000,000 levas from direct taxes, and 1,330,000,000 levas from railways, ports, posts, telegraphs, and telephones.

Foreign Trade in 1924.

During 1924 the imports totalled in value 5,557,000,000 levas, equivalent to approximately nine million pounds sterling, while exports amounted to 4,902,000,000 levas. The adverse trade balance is thus 650 million levas, against an adverse balance of 1,400 million levas in 1923. Imports from Great Britain total 723 million levas, which places us third on the list of importing countries. Germany is first and Italy second. In 1923 our imports were £100,000 greater than last year, and probably this small difference has gone to the profit of Germany. In exports we occupy a negligible position.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

The Kingsway Hall was filled last Thursday evening when a public meeting was held, under the joint auspices of the English Zionist Federation and the Keren Hayesod, to celebrate the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem the previous day. Professor Sir Hermann Gollancz presided, and he was supported on the platform by Professor S. Alexander, Sir Martin Conway, M.P., Dayan Dr. A. Feldman, Dayan H. Mendelsohn, Dr. S. Daiches, and Mr. H. J. Morgenstern, secretary of the English Zionist Federation. The Chairman, after a few introductory remarks in Hebrew, said that that great massed meeting had assembled to testify how warmly all shared in the glorious triumph of all those who had laboured so zealously and untiringly, from Baron Edmond de Rothschild to Chaim Weizmann, to bring about the marvellous change in the position of their Jewish brethren in Palestine and on the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He saw no reason why that manysided seat of learning should not grow to become one of the greatest centres of culture in the world, for it would have many advantages which the older university could not possess. Professor S. Alexander, Sir Martin Conway, M.P., Dayan Dr. Feldman, and others, offered their congratulations to all who had helped in the building and appointing of the university.

The monopoly tax levied on cigars imported into the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom by travellers has been increased to 20 dinars each.

The Metropolitan Carriage, Waggon, and Finance Company has secured a contract from the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of 500 box trucks at £E243, c.i.f., Alexandria. Early delivery was a decisive factor in the adjudication (says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*), since several other firms, notably German and Czecho-Slovak, tendered lower, but the Metropolitan offered to begin delivery ten weeks hence at the rate of 60 a week. The contract for another 500 box trucks at £E217 was awarded to the Czecho-Slovak firm of Ringhofer.

SALT PRODUCTION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

There are three State salt beds at present in Yugoslavia: one at Pag, in Dalmatia, producing 1,000 wagon loads of sea salt a year; one at Ston, in Dalmatia, producing 800 wagon loads; and one at Kreka, in Bosnia, with an annual production of 5,000 wagon loads of kitchen salt. The establishment of another salt centre at Dulcigne, in Montenegro, with an estimated capacity of 7,000 wagon loads, is under consideration. The present annual production of 6,800 wagon loads is hardly equal to one-quarter of the national consumption, and quantities of salt are, therefore, imported, mainly from Italy and Roumania. The pure kitchen salt produced at the Kreka mines is said to equal in quality that of France, Germany, or England. The Monopoly Administration purchases the salt at 0.50 to 0.60 dinars (less than one halfpenny) per kilogram, and sells it at 3 dinars (2¼d.).

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Jaffa, March 3.—Owing to the drought, the oranges are getting very dry, and have to be shipped as quickly as possible. In consequence prices have fallen to 15s.-16s. per case.

Haifa, February 21.—Dealings in cereals have been important this week. Offerings have been speedily absorbed, and prices remain very firm.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Dusters.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 5,000 cloth dusters for carriage windows. May 3.

Clothing, etc.—The Egyptian Postal Administration invites tenders for the supply of clothing and general stores for the year 1925-26. The general stores cover a wide range, although frequently in quite small quantities. May 12. (D.O.T.)

Paper, etc.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of paper and chemicals for photostat for 1925-26. June 10.

Paper.—The Survey of Egypt, Ministry of Finance, invites tenders for the supply of 100 reams of machine-made ledger paper, size 30½ in. by 40½ in., and 400 reams of similar paper size 22½ in. by 36½ in.—June 16.

Roumania.

Fire-Extinguishing Pumps.—Tenders for fire-extinguishing pumps are invited by the Roumanian State Railways. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	285-287
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	295-298
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.80-24.81
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5⅞ 1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.75-94.80
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,020-1,025
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5⅞-1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	915-930
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 78$\frac{11}{16}$-$\frac{13}{16}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	92.90-93 00
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161¼-161½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116 65-.75
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653 660
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.90-34.05
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.80-24 95

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CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA

HEAD OFFICE: 38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

CAPITAL, in 600,000 Shares of £5 each - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £4,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.
HENRY BATESON, Esq.
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
The Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
ARCHIBALD AULDJO JAMIESON, Esq.
The Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER: W. E. PRESTON.
MANAGERS: J. S. BRUCE. G. MILLER.
SUB-MANAGER: J. L. CROCKATT.
AUDITORS: DAVID CHARLES WILSON, F.C.A. HENRY CROUGHTON KNIGHT STILEMAN, F.C.A.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

ALOR STAR (Malay States)	CANTON	HAMBURG	KLANG	NEW YORK	SEMARANG	TAVOY
AMRITSAR	CAWNPORE	HANKOW	KOBE	PEKING	SEREMBAN	TIENTSIN
BANGKOK	CEBU	HONGKONG.	KUALA LUMPUR	PENANG.	SHANGHAI	TOKYO
BATAVIA	COLOMBO	ILOILO	KUCHING	PUKET	SINGAPORE.	YOKOHAMA
BOMBAY	DELHI	IPOH	MADRAS	RANGOON	SOURABAYA	ZAMBOANGA
CALCUTTA	HAIPHONG	KARACHI	MANILA	SAIGON	TAIPING (F.M.S.)	(Philippine Islands)
			MEDAN			

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

(Presented at the Seventy-first Ordinary General Meeting, 1st April, 1925.)

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £993,123 11s. 8d. inclusive of £222,407 15s. 6d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £210,000. The amount now available is therefore £783,123 11s. 8d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of Six shillings and threepence per share, making Twenty-and-a-quarter per cent per annum for the whole year, free of Income Tax; to add £100,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £4,000,000; to add £25,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account £50,000, and to carry forward the balance of £210,623 11s. 8d.

The Directors have to announce with regret the retirement of their esteemed colleague, Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G., who for 37 years rendered valued service to the Bank as a member of the Board; and also have to record their sense of the great loss the Bank has sustained by the death of Mr. J. M. G. PROPHIT, who was elected a Director in 1919.

Mr. HENRY BATESON, of Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co., London, and Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co., Calcutta, and Mr. ARCHIBALD AULDJO JAMIESON, of the Borneo Company, Ltd., have been elected Directors, and the Shareholders are now invited to confirm their election.

The Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., Mr. WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, M.P., and Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, the Directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. DAVID CHARLES WILSON, F.C.A., and Mr. HENRY CROUGHTON KNIGHT STILEMAN, F.C.A., again tender their services.

The Dividend and Bonus will be payable on and after Wednesday, the 8th April. By order of the Court, A. S. HEWETT, *Secretary*.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

To	£	s.	d.
Capital, £600,000 Shares of £5 each paid up	3,000,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	3,900,000	0	0
Notes in Circulation	1,732,521	0	4
Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	25,067,514	17	4
Fixed Deposits	16,991,797	18	6
Bills Payable:—			
Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches .. £2,107,712 16 6			
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers against Security, per Contra 79,740 16 10			
	2,187,453	13	4
Acceptances on Account of Customers	4,359,544	14	9
Loans Payable, against Security, per Contra	2,017,603	11	1
Due to Agents and Correspondents	5,410	13	5
Sundry Liabilities, including Rebates	1,804,288	7	0
Profit and Loss	783,123	11	8
	£61,849,258	7	5

By	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand and at Bankers	6,353,919	7	5
Bullion on hand and in Transit	3,140,959	11	0
Government and other Securities	6,470,274	8	11
Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits	2,056,335	6	8
Bills of Exchange	19,178,445	9	4
Bills Discounted and Loans	19,007,199	0	7
Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra	4,359,544	14	9
Due by Agents and Correspondents	80,200	7	5
Sundry Assets, including Exchange Adjustments	257,232	19	0
Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches	945,149	2	4
	£61,849,258	7	5

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £11,466,299 14s. 5d., of which £10,871,533 10s. 11d. has run off at 16th March, 1925.
Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, etc., £56,357,470 15s. 11d.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Interim Dividend at 30th June, 1924	210,000	0	0
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—			
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date £210,000 0 0			
Bonus of 6s. 3d. per share 187,500 0 0			
Reserve Fund 100,000 0 0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund 25,000 0 0			
Bank Premises 50,000 0 0			
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account 210,623 11 8			
	783,123	11	8
	£993,123	11	8

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Balance at 31st December, 1923	794,907	15	6
Less Dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1923 .... £210,000 0 0			
Bonus of 6s. 3d. per share 187,500 0 0			
Reserve Fund 100,000 0 0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund 25,000 0 0			
Bank Premises 50,000 0 0			
	572,500	0	0
	222,407	15	6
Net Profits for the year, after deduction of Expenses of Management, and after providing for bad and doubtful debts, taxation, etc.	770,715	16	2
	£993,123	11	8

W. E. PRESTON, Chief Manager.
J. S. BRUCE, G. MILLER, } Managers.
CHAS. R. HYDE, S. JONES, } Accountants.
London, 18th March, 1925.

Examined and found correct according to the Books, Vouchers, and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches.

D. C. WILSON, H. C. K. STILEMAN, } Auditors.

H. BATESON, T. CUTHBERTSON, L. A. WALLACE, } Directors.

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Company Meetings.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Future Course of Indian Exchange.

Sir Montagu Turner's Speech.

The seventy-first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held on April 1, on the bank's premises, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C. Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, the chairman, presided.

The Chief Manager (Mr. W. E. Preston) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I propose that the report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account be taken as read. I am sorry that our colleague, Mr. Colin Campbell, is unable to be present to-day. He is a victim of the prevailing epidemic of influenza, and is unfortunately confined to his house and unable to come to business.

From the report you will notice that our valued friend and colleague, Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., has decided to retire from the board owing to failing health. Sir Alfred had been a director for thirty-seven years, always a good friend and staunch supporter of this bank, and has won a name for himself in the City of London as a very straight and honourable man of business. His colleagues on this board part with him with real regret.

It will also be noticed from the report that Mr. J. M. G. Prophit has passed away. He was on a visit to India when shortly after his arrival in Calcutta he became a victim to a very sharp attack of malaria. Mr. Prophit had only been a director of this bank for five years, but during that period he gave full proof of his value and his attachment to the bank. To many of us Mr. Prophit was an old and much esteemed friend, whose many charms and sterling good qualities we shall long retain in our memory.

The vacancies on the court of directors have been filled by the election of Mr. H. Bateson (an ex-president of the Bank of Bengal), of Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co., of this city, and of Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co., Calcutta, and the election of Mr. A. A. Jamieson, of the Borneo Company, Ltd.

Both have varied and extensive business connections, and we shall ask you to-day to confirm their election.

Trade Conditions.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31 last, and in drawing your attention to the result, which shows a net profit slightly less than last year, I desire to emphasise the fact that competition in Eastern banking is increasing in all directions, with the result that margins in exchange are whittled down to an extremely fine point, and it is not easy to maintain the standard of profits of previous years. Furthermore the course of trade in the East has not run so smoothly or in such volume as we might have hoped had conditions been normal. In attempting to describe those conditions under which we have worked and to make a forecast for the future, I should be inclined to adopt the well-known formula which we have heard with such frequency while listening-in for the evening weather report: "Weather unsettled, prospects uncertain." The weather in some quarters has indeed been extremely unsettled. There have been periods of sunshine, but, as a rule, the commercial barometer has stood low.

I would refer to China as an example, where the usual course of industry and commerce has been deplorably interfered with by the prevalence of disastrous Civil War, both in the north and south of China. The only result of this internal conflict, as far as I can see, is the personal aggrandisement or the attainment of power by a few military leaders, who can scarcely be regarded as patriots in any sense of the word. China is suffering also from the absence of a strong central Government with the result that disorder reigns supreme in many of the Chinese provinces. The peaceful inhabitants are looted and outraged by bands of ex-soldier brigands.

Communication by rail, road or river is so uncertain and dangerous that merchants prefer to keep their goods in safety at the seaports, while up-country dealers are unable to move their goods to seaports owing to the want of transport facilities. Thousands of tons of wool, cotton, skins, seeds, and other raw products are awaiting transportation from North China. The railways are practically in the hands of the military leaders, with the result that the rolling stock is scarcely ever available for the transport of commerce, and, even when available, has to be paid for at an abnormal price, added to which the permanent way is in such a state of disrepair as to prevent the ordinary running of traffic.

In spite of this, the Customs revenues for Hankow and Shanghai show an increase over 1923, chiefly in connection with imports, the higher value of which may account for the increase, which seems unaccountable in the face of a general complaint of dull trade. Imports into China of twist and cotton piece goods from Japan show a considerable increase in 1922-23 as compared with imports from Great Britain. Hong Kong reports that forward import business of linen and woollen goods is far from bright. The political situation in Canton is very unsettled, and dealers are reluctant to trade under these conditions. Up-country stocks are light, and, if safe transport were guaranteed through an improved political situation, clearances would improve immediately.

Japan's Progress.

Japan has been confronted with the difficult financial problem of meeting extraordinary expenditure for the reconstruction purposes in addition to the ordinary heavy charges on account of military and naval outlay. A heavy adverse balance of trade up to the end of 1924, owing to large imports of foodstuff, wool, cotton, and material for reconstruction purposes, with a depreciated yen, has necessitated borrowing in Europe and in America, but the general economic outlook is hopeful, and Japan has no reason to be seriously alarmed at the position.

In Tokio reconstruction has made rapid progress, and about 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the population are back again. In Yokohama less rapid progress has been made, but Government and the municipality have decided to allot yen 129,000,000 between them for reconstructing the town, and a large sum is being spent on harbour works, piers, etc., so as to make Yokohama the finest port in Japan.

It is interesting to note that the Japanese cotton and spinning mills have had a prosperous time, paying dividends ranging from 16 per cent. to 48 per cent. in 1924, as against very much lower profits shown by similar mills in England and the United States. This prosperity—temporary though it may be—is mainly due to protection, combinations to keep up domestic prices, and longer working hours. The mills work 27 days per month, with an average day of 19 hours, divided into two shifts; but against this it is right to record the fact that Japanese labour is much less efficient than Western labour. Roughly speaking, in Japan 36 operatives are required for every 1,000 spindles—i.e., 18 for each shift, while in the United States and Great Britain only five operatives are said to be employed for each 1,000 spindles.

This prosperity of the Japanese cotton mill industry is in striking contrast to the present position of the same industry in Great Britain and India. The Bombay cotton mills especially have had, and are having, extremely bad times. It is therefore not surprising that Bombay mill-owners and their sympathisers are clamouring loudly and insistently for the immediate abolition of the 3½ per cent. cotton Excise duty.

Imports of yarn from Japan into India have greatly increased, to the detriment of Lancashire goods. In the last nine months of 1924 imports of cotton twist and yarn from Japan into India totalled 25,500,000 lbs., a very substantial increase on previous years. So also in the case of unbleached grey goods, the imports from Great Britain have decreased, while shipments from Japan to India have increased. These facts are worthy of serious consideration.

India's Improved Financial Position.

As regards India, in my remarks of last year I said that the financial position was much improved, and that practically the deficit in the Budget no longer existed. The deficit has been turned into a surplus of nearly three millions sterling, and we must heartily congratulate Sir Basil Blackett on his Budget statement, which shows the financial soundness of India. It is true that part of this surplus has been obtained by the average rate of exchange for the financial year working out at 17½d. instead of

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16d., at which rate the estimates were calculated, and partly by a reduction of military expenditure, but it is none the less remarkable that in such a short period after the war the finances of India should be in a position of strength which might well be the envy of many a European Power.

As regards the future course of exchange, I think it likely that we shall see a rate round about 1s. 6d.—perhaps a little lower, perhaps a little higher—and from our experience of the past year it can be said that this rate is not prejudicial to the export trade of India, and a stabilised rate at that figure would be of material advantage to the importer. Whatever Financial Commission may be appointed, or whenever it may be appointed, I trust that no undue haste will be shown in forcing the value of the rupee either below or above the level which experience proves to be the most desirable from all points of view.

India has been fortunate in having a third year in succession with a good monsoon. The balance of trade in her favour is considerable, and she enters upon 1925 with favourable economic prospects. The unusually dry, cold weather experienced in January and February has seriously affected the wheat and grain crops in the North-West and Punjab, and shipments from Kurrachee and Bombay will not be as heavy as was expected. Prices of foodstuffs in North India have risen.

Upward Tendency of Prices.

It is interesting to note that between the middle of August, 1923, and the middle of December, 1924, there has been a steady upward tendency in the prices of Indian commodities on the London market, as shown by the following average figures:—

Rice advanced in the sixteen months from 13s. 6d. to 18s. per cwt.; wheat from 40s. to 63s. per quarter; castor seed from £18 10s. to £24 per ton; linseed from £18 10s. to £21 per ton; groundnuts from £20 10s. to £25 per ton; groundnut cake from £11 10s. to £13 10s.; copra from £27 5s. to £32 10s.; jute from £22 5s. to £40 per ton; wool from 12d. to 19d. per lb.; hemp from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 1d. per lb.; skins from 5s. 9d. to 6s. 10d.; tea from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.; and shellac from 260s. to 320s. per cwt.

As regards the position of the piece goods markets in India generally, we should describe it as fairly healthy in that stocks are not at an abnormally high figure. In some quarters the position is described as lifeless, mainly due to the fact that dealers consider the prices quoted from this side are unreasonably dear in view of the fall in the price of American cotton. This is unfortunate, especially in view of the fact that exchange has for some months past favoured the importer; but, until Manchester meets the market—and I understand she is doing so—the position will remain strained. Unfortunately, Italy is now a keen competitor with Manchester for the supply of coloured and printed goods for the Indian bazaar. Italy's imports into India in 1924 were valued at about Rs.30 lakhs, and it is understood that large forward indents were placed for delivery in 1925.

Italy's prices are some 25 to 50 per cent. under Manchester's; the depreciation of the lira and low wages paid in Milan have all helped to the successful competition of the foreign as against the British manufactured goods.

Gold and Silver Imports.

As evidence of India's prosperity, it is worthy of notice that in 1923 gold imports were valued at 26,000,000, and in 1924 at £34,000,000. These figures, of course, may differ from those given in other quarters. I think it is a matter of exchange. We have taken the exchange at 1s. 6d. per rupee. There is still a steady demand for the precious metal at a certain price. The bulk of this gold is, we believe, hoarded in place of silver, but a fair amount is used for domestic purposes.

Imports of silver amounted in 1924 to £17,202,000, while £3,144,000 was re-exported. India and China are the chief consumers of silver in the world, and of the total estimated production of 236 million ounces from all sources—United States, Mexico, and other countries—India is reported to have taken 100 million ounces. Mexico is the largest producer—92 million ounces of a total world production of 236 million ounces.

As regards Ceylon, though business is quiet at the moment, all appearances point to a continuance of the prosperity which the island has enjoyed during the last two years. Piece goods from Great Britain show a decrease, while shipments from India and Japan have increased. Tea prices have sagged of late, but the industry in both India and Ceylon has enjoyed a remarkable period of prosperity, and the lower prices of tea are probably due to a temporary falling off in quality rather than to over-production.

Balance Sheet.

Turning to our balance-sheet, our total figures at £61,849,258 7s. 5d. show an increase of £3,083,720 15s. 7d. over those for the corresponding period of 1923. Our current and fixed deposit accounts aggregate £42,059,312 15s. 10d., an increase over our figures of the previous year of £469,285 14s. 8d.

Our cash in hand and at bankers, at £6,353,919 7s. 5d., is £1,680,914 11s. 5d. higher than the same item of 1923, whilst bullion on hand and in transit exceeded our 1923 figures by £2,080,769 7s. This increase was due to heavy purchases of bar gold and sovereigns by the Indian bazaars from South Africa, America, and London, and financed by our Bombay agency, which were readily absorbed.

Our holdings of Government and other securities have been reduced from £14,385,289 11s. 4d. in 1923 to £6,470,274 8s. 11d., a reduction of £7,915,015 2s. 5d. Our policy has been, having in view the renewal or otherwise of the Gold and Silver (Export Control) Act, which continues in force until the end of this year, that it would be advisable to reduce our holding, and to confine such as we retained to short-dated terminable securities, protecting us from ultimate depreciation. This action has resulted in our holding of bills being increased from £13,944,602 13s. 9d. to £19,178,445 9s. 4d. Our bills discounted and loans have risen from £17,692,262 10s. 3d. to £19,007,199 0s. 7d., whilst our acceptances on account of customers show an increase from £2,659,287 2s. 5d. to £4,359,544 14s. 9d. Our bank premises have been reduced from £971,050 14s. 9d. to £945,149 2s. 4d.

Profit and Distribution.

Our net profit, a little less than last year, enables us to pay the same dividend and bonus to shareholders, and to make the usual allocations to our reserve fund, officers' superannuation fund, and premises account.

I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, that you will be glad to notice that, by the addition of £100,000 to the reserve fund, we now have a reserve fund of £4,000,000, as compared with our paid-up capital of £3,000,000.

I trust you will agree with me that the results disclosed are not unsatisfactory, in view of the prevailing conditions. For them we are mainly indebted to the excellent and

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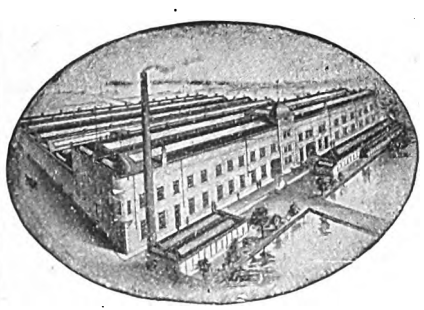
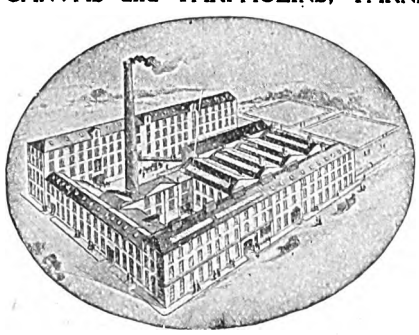
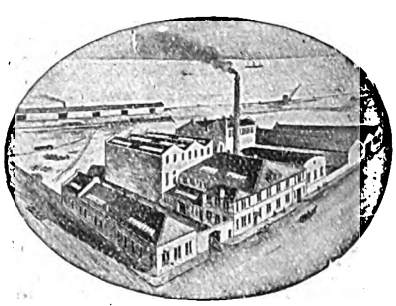

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skilful work of our general manager, Mr. Preston, and I am sure that Mr. Preston will agree with the board that thanks are also due to his colleagues, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Crockatt, at the head office. The directors also tender their thanks to the agents, managers abroad, and the staff generally, at home and abroad, for the loyal manner in which they have carried out their duties and helped to maintain the prestige and good name of the Chartered Bank.

With those remarks I beg to move: "That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted."

The Right Hon. Sir John N. Jordan, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B., seconded the motion, and, after some congratulatory remarks by Mr. Frederick Tomkinson, it was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman next proposed "That a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1924, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, free of income-tax, be now declared payable on and after the 8th inst."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and the auditors were re-elected, and votes of thanks to the directors and staff and to the chairman for presiding concluded the proceedings.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

Provisional Agreement with Greek Government

An extraordinary general meeting of Lake Copais Company, Ltd., was held on April 2 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to consider a resolution approving a provisional agreement between the Hellenic Government and the company providing for reference to arbitration of certain matters and differences outstanding. Mr. W. Sandford Poole (chairman of the company) presided.

The Assistant-Secretary (Mr. R. D. Prichard) having read the notice convening the meeting and the proposed resolution,

The Chairman said that the reason the shareholders and the Debenture stockholders had been called together was, in the opinion of the board, one of the greatest importance to all who were interested in the company. The company rendered extremely valuable services to Greece, but, owing largely to the fact that the company had never enjoyed the full rights under its concessions to which the board considered it was entitled for spending a very large amount of capital in draining and converting a fever-breeding marsh into some 60,000 acres of excellent cultivable land, the shareholders had received no return whatever, and the Debenture stockholders only very inadequate interest on their investments.

In that connection he might refer to a leading article which had appeared in *The Times* on the previous day on the subject of Greek Internal Problems. In that article certain of the difficulties with which the Government in Greece was faced were referred to, among them being the "terribly severe form of malaria, which our troops knew to their cost, in the marshy and mosquito-ridden Macedonian lowlands. Failing the discovery of a prophylactic, only costly drainage and reclamation works can rid Greece of this scourge; and the necessary Greek and foreign capital for such undertakings would only be provided if the present improvement in the internal stability of Greece was maintained."

The company had already carried out extensive drainage works, which had proved of immense benefit to the locality and to the nation. From time to time over a period of some thirty years negotiations had taken place between Greek Governments and the company for a settlement of all outstanding questions. Agreements had been signed in 1902, 1904, 1906, 1907, and 1909, but those agreements had never received the ratification necessary to make them legal and binding. At the last meeting he expressed the hope that no further time would be lost before the Hellenic Government dealt with the company's case on its merits and accorded to them a definite settlement. Ever since that meeting the board had been exceedingly busy in endeavouring to find solutions of the difficulties which had hitherto prevented a definite settlement from being consummated.

As the result of discussions with representatives of the Greek Government, an Act was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on December 19 last authorising the Government to enter into an arbitration agreement with the company for the settlement of all differences. That Act provided for the appointment of an arbitrator by each of the parties, and, if the arbitrators did not reach an agreement within three months from the time the arbitration commenced, then the outstanding differences were to be settled finally and irrevocably by a referee appointed by the President of the Swiss Confederation, or by the President of the International Tribunal at The Hague. An important point was that any settlement or decisions arrived at had the force of law so soon as they had been promulgated by the Council of Ministers, which was to be done immediately. Among other points to be settled by the arbitration was an additional concession in regard to the company's rights over the waters of certain rivers and lakes with the object of developing hydro-electric power and with a State guarantee of interest on any capital raised for that purpose.

Since December 19, when the law was passed, negotiations had been in progress in regard to the terms of the Arbitration agreement. That agreement was signed on March 9 by representatives of the Hellenic Government and of the company. The agreement was subject to ratification by the board of directors of the company before April 8, and it was in order that they might seek the explicit authority of the shareholders and of the Debenture stockholders to ratify the agreement that the meetings had been called. The Greek State had appointed as their arbitrator the Vice-President of the Areopagus, the highest Court in the State, and the company had secured as their arbitrator Sir Robert Windham Graves, K.C.M.G.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and at separate meetings of the holders of "A" Debenture stock and "B" Debenture stock, held subsequently, the provisional agreement was also approved.

YUGOSLAV RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT.

A report from Belgrade states that work is shortly to be commenced on a narrow-gauge line connecting Belgrade with Obrenovatz, which would complete the direct narrow-gauge connection with Gruz via Uzitze-Vardiste-Sarajevo. It is also stated that a railway line is to be constructed from Podgorica, in Montenegro, to Plavnitza, a village 22 kilometres distant. This line was traced out some time ago, and, apparently, only the work of laying the lines remains to be undertaken.

THE KING OF EGYPT'S STATE RAILWAY COACH.

The State railway coach of H.M. the King of Egypt was recently shipped on board the Patrick Henderson liner Amarapoora. The coach has been built by the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon, and Finance Co., Ltd., of Birmingham, and was on view at Wembley last year, the King of Egypt agreeing to await later delivery in order that it might remain on exhibition.

The length of the coach is 66 ft., the width 9 ft. 3 in., and the extreme height over its double roof 14 ft. There are six compartments, comprising vestibule, lounge, bureau, bedroom, ballroom, and valet's room. The exterior is painted in cream colour, tastefully picked out with gold lining, and adorned on each centre panel with hand-painted reproductions of the King's coat-of-arms. Ornamental entrance steps and handrails enhance the graceful appearance of the coach.

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as shown in the specifications to be obtained from the Seed and Manure Section of the said Ministry of Agriculture, 12, Falaki Street, Cairo (Egypt), and at the different Consulates abroad up to noon of Saturday, 2nd May, 1925, holidays excepted.

Tenders will be received by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, at the said Ministry, Cairo, up to noon on Saturday, the 2nd May, 1925.

Conditions of Tenders can be obtained at—
The Royal Egyptian Legation,
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Established 1839.

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Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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Central Office:
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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - Rs. 4.67.50.000

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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RAZMAK	10,600	—	Apr. 28	Bombay & Karachi
§COROMANDEL	15,000	Apr. 24	—	Colombo & Australia
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MORVADA	8,193	—	Apr. 18	East African Ports
‡MANDALA	8,246	—	Apr. 24	Bombay & Karachi
‖MANORA	8,888	—	Apr. 25	Madras & Calcutta
NIRVANA	6,021	Apr. 22	May 9	Bombay & Karachi
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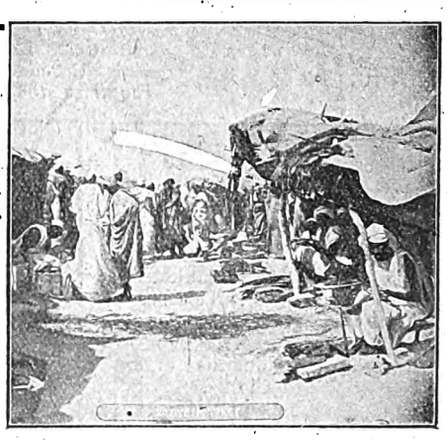

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 727—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lord Balfour's Mission.

Lord Balfour's visit to Palestine, instead of merely supplying evidence of unwisdom in high places, has provided an interesting object lesson in national psychology. It would seem as if a brief period of British administration has inculcated the Arabs of Palestine with some at least of the British philosophical outlook on life. Quite wrongly they attributed to Lord Balfour personal responsibility for Great Britain's identification with a national home for the Jews in Palestine, and they regarded his visit to the country for a purely Jewish official occasion as a particularly objectionable method of "rubbing it in" for them. If they had taken the trouble to inquire, they would have found out that Lord Balfour never reads newspapers, has little time to devote to ordinary mundane affairs, and was probably unaware, when he accepted the invitation to open the Hebrew University, that the Arabs were labouring under a sense of grievance or associated him in any way with their troubles; they would, consequently, have acquitted Lord Balfour of discourtesy towards themselves. Be that as it may, the Arabs adopted towards the visit certainly not the wisest policy, but at least a dignified attitude; they registered their disapproval with marked restraint, saw carefully to it that no disturbances took place, and left it at that. There is no reason why they should not receive full credit for the exemplary way in which they acted according to their lights: they belied the worst fears entertained of Lord Balfour's unfortunate mission, and their conduct has substantially improved the outlook for a satisfactory political development in Palestine.

Syria and Palestine.

From Palestine Lord Balfour went to Syria. Now, for the Syrians there are several obstacles to be overcome before they can claim to have anything to do with any possible disappointment felt by Palestinian Arabs in regard to the Jewish national home, and, therefore, the presence of Lord Balfour should not have called for any more comment than that of any other distinguished British tourist; but evidently French influence does not make for that philosophical self-control which served the Palestinians in such good stead. The Arabs of Damascus gave full rein to the Oriental's capacity for working himself into a passion, and staged a first-class riot for Lord Balfour's benefit. How it came about that, in spite of several warnings of trouble brewing, the latter persisted in his visit may in some quarters be held to call for further explanation. There does not seem to have been any room for doubt in the very definite nature of the French warning; armed sentries travelled on Lord Balfour's train, others were posted at every station; Lord Balfour was requested to leave the train before it reached Damascus, in order to avoid trouble at the terminus, and was driven as unostentatiously as possible to his hotel. Fortunately, the French authorities appear to have taken no umbrage at this rather heavy strain on their hospitality. General Sarrail, indeed, expressed himself as not averse from an opportunity for the populace of Damascus to let off steam, such as Lord Balfour provided; but it is to be hoped that the precedent established of using distinguished Allied guests as safety valves will not become a settled policy in mandated territories. Had it not been for the admirable handling by the French authorities, the trouble must have been far more serious. As things were, the streets were the scene of rioting for the greater part of a day; casualties amounted to one killed and a score or more injured, and Lord Balfour was unable to leave his hotel until, as a former missioner to Damascus, he found opportunity to quit the city in haste, a motor-car supplying the modern equivalent of being let down the wall in a basket.

After the Visit.

Among the many morals that can be drawn from Lord Balfour's experiences in Palestine and Syria, perhaps the most important one would stress the value of reading newspapers. At Rosh Pina on the eve of leaving Palestine Lord Balfour devoted a speech to challenging what he considered were popular misconceptions about the effect of the Declaration; but, if these misconceptions ever existed, they have been proved to be out of date. The mischief of the visit has nothing to do with any theories that "Jews and Arabs cannot live and co-operate together," but consists solely in the setback to the excellent work done by the Palestine

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Administration in showing that the two peoples are disposed to live and co-operate together. As a matter of fact, they have not done so to any appreciable extent since the Declaration; but at the moment when Lord Balfour heedlessly decided to stir up a political hornets' nest Arab misgivings had practically been laid to rest, and co-operation had some chance of materialising. Palestine, like Damascus, will settle down again to a normal routine; but neither will have any particular reason to be grateful for a thoroughly disconcerting visit. The formation of a new Arab party with a programme providing for a policy of co-operation with the Government is a further indication that Palestine will ultimately find its feet, if left to itself. No better solution can be found for political differences than steady economic development, which is taking place all the time, thanks to the wise policy that is dictating so much of the investment of Jewish capital in the country.

Spring in the Balkans.

Watchers in the Balkans who, almost invariably at this season of the year, have hitherto detected the rumblings of approaching wars or disturbances claim this spring to be able to hear unmistakable cooings of the doves of peace. It is to be hoped that the event will not prove them false prophets, as it has done so often before. Even in Bulgaria we are invited to regard the internal position as much more secure than it was held to be a few weeks ago. The value of bearing with things as they are rather than running the risk of the unknown evils that a change of Government may bring about is beginning to be appreciated. Communism for the moment has over-reached itself, the power current supplied from without has been of too strong a voltage for the imperfect wiring in Bulgaria, and the resultant fusing has put Communist machinery out of action. There is a tendency in Yugoslavia to give the Government the fullest possible opportunity to make the most of the change of front of the Raditch group, in the hope that reasonableness in this unexpected quarter may react throughout the body politic. Greece continues to benefit from the retention of power by the Government of M. Michalokopoulos, who, taking office last October as the sixth Prime Minister of the year, has remained at the head of the Cabinet for more than six months, and has brought home to all sections of the people the advantages of a respite from frequent political changes. Only in regard to Roumania do rumours of a pending upheaval continue to find currency through the medium of Vienna or some other suspect channel, but public opinion interested in Eastern Europe has become accustomed to this cry of "Wolf." If a change is to come, there is no reason to suppose that there will be any need for other than pacific methods. The strength of the present Government lies not only in its numerical following, but also in the weakness of its opponents. When the latter become strong and united, they will probably find M. Bratianu ready to yield place to them.

The Kurdish Revolt.

The Turkish Government has now progressed far enough in the suppression of the Kurdish revolt to be able to formulate its schemes for the subsequent settlement of the country. Its aim will be to minimise points of difference between Kurdistan and the rest of Turkey, and it remains to be seen whether this goal can be reached without the incurring of the ominous charge contained in the word "Turkification." Few people will claim that the Kurds are ready for autonomy; on the other hand there is no reason why their strong racial instinct should not be respected as much as that of the Turks. Angora's problem, therefore, is to convince the Kurds at one and the same time of its capacity to keep them in order and of their interest in remaining law-abiding citizens of the Republic. Its military dispositions can be relied upon to be effective. The country will be divided into a number of districts, each under a military governor, and strong detachments of infantry and gendarmerie will be posted at different centres. The abolition of the titles and privileges of sheikhs and beys is a not unnatural penalty for an unsuccessful revolt organised entirely by these feudal chiefs; but for the permanent pacification of the Kurds the Turkish Government will be well advised to draw a sharp line between temporal power and any spiritual hold that the leaders may have. A promise to develop education among the people is at least an earnest of a recognition of a modern State's responsibilities.

The Mosul Boundary.

Rumour continues to be busy with the intentions of the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to report on the Mosul frontier question. Ever since the Turkish assessor returned to Angora the belief that the Commission would report favourably to Turkey's claims and against Iraq has been gaining ground. In so far, therefore, as the rumours originate from the one source, they may be regarded as suspect. If, on the other hand, they should be confirmed by the Commission's findings, further evidence of the inadequate equipment of the three delegates for their task would be forthcoming. They appear to have been handicapped from the outset by language difficulties and by a lack of familiarity with oriental methods: but a *sine quâ non* of their qualification for the mission should have been ability to keep their own counsel. We should be sorry, however, to judge the delegates solely on statements attributed to the Turkish assessor. In any case, the duty of the Commission is to report its findings to the Council of the League of Nations, which will, without doubt, have to be satisfied that those findings are supported by clear and reliable evidence. According to one report, the inquiries established the existence in the Mosul vilayet of a population of half a million Kurds, 180,000 Arabs, 80,000 Christians, 45,000 Turks, and 30,000 Yezidis. Against the facile verdict of the Turkish assessor it may be pointed out that the League of Nations will have to weigh the results of replacing under Turkish jurisdiction over a quarter of a million non-Turks (Arabs and Christians).

NEW NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST STAMPS.

The Times states that the subjects of the new Greek postage stamps, now being printed by the firm of Aspiotis Frères, at Corfu, are nine in number, made up as follows:—Dodecanese woman in native costume, Macedonian woman, the White Tower of Salonika, the monastery of Simon Peter, Corinth Canal, Temple of Theseus, the Acropolis, the Academy, and the cruiser Averoff. Other countries where new stamp issues are imminent are Abyssinia and Afghanistan.

Four of the picturesque new postage stamps of Syria and Lebanon—2, 3, 5, and 10 piastres—have been overprinted "Avion" in green French and Arabic characters for use in the air-post service, as well as a third set for the Alaouites territory, additionally overprinted on Syria.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Easter.

To see the crowds at the stations and on the roads going away for Easter, one would not have thought that there was much amiss with England's prosperity and mentality. The crush was terrific. Everybody seemed to have much money and little care, and there was an air of heedlessness whether Mr. Churchill takes a shilling off the income-tax and whether the wide strikes that are threatened materialise or not. And just as thousands fled from London, so hundreds came to it. What these visitors did I do not know; for I was one of the happy refugees.

Really England was exceedingly beautiful over the Eastertide. It is true that in Kent, where I was, the cherry, "the loveliest of trees," had not yet begun to bloom; nor had the bluebells but the promise of enchanting their spinneys and banks. But the cowslips were out, and the sides of the lanes carpeted with primroses. Violets, white and blue, were smelling equally of rich things, and the whole earth breathed out the spirit which is consecrated at this time. Larks above went singing, singing all day long; indeed, the whole life of those creatures not tangled in nor tarnished by our industrial system proclaimed that the earth, or, at least, the South of England, was just as good as ever it was.

The time was, in fact, the dream of Browning and of hundreds of Englishmen overseas before and after his time. And, incidentally, one heard the cuckoo for the first time this year.

Fasting.

Although during this short visit to the "Garden of England" I found what to me were surprising manifestations of religious tendencies, it is a fact, I believe, that Easter is not treated with the reverence which was formerly its characteristic and is still its due. There appears to be little difference made now between Good Friday and Easter Monday. Particularly is this decline in religious observance noticeable in the matter of fasting.

The information which London's central food markets provide is, I suppose, as final evidence as one can get upon this question, and that points to the practical dying out of Lenten fasting. According to Billingsgate, Good Friday is now the only day on which the Englishman fasts on fish, and the year 1925 is already hailed as that in which was heard the swan-song (as the business men put it) of the salt cod once so usual in Lent. Billingsgate, in fact, this year received one order only for cod, whereas before the War it used to deal with a thousand barrels.

Piccadilly Tube Station.

The Underground Railways have very definite ideas upon making their stations attractive, and in places like Hendon and Edgware, for instance, where the stations have been designed with porticos for shop displays, they are pursuing uninterruptedly their sweet way for brightening London. In Piccadilly, however, they have come bump up against the authorities of the London County Council, who have uncompromisingly refused to allow display windows to be placed in the new Piccadilly station. The Railway, however, are making strenuous efforts to get the decision reversed.

Whether a time will come when shops are permitted on the Underground it is difficult to say, but at least, seeing that commerce has already annexed the air, it is probable that subterranean methods will be employed for the "provision of toddy for imbeciles" (advertisement). At the moment, it is true, Tubes are rather depressing things, and but for the fact that one learns nearly all one knows about the theatrical world from them, there is in them nothing to do but to hope that one will get a seat.

Motor Headlights.

Once more the vexed question concerning the dimming of headlights is agitating motorists in this country, for although the R.A.C. and the majority of drivers here are in favour of keeping lights on, there appears to be a determined minority which favours dimming. In practice it is a fact, so I am told, that travellers do generally dim, the idea being that the courtesy thus paid to one's fellow-traveller outweighs the disadvantage which the brief spell of blindness thus caused entails. Most people agree that the candle-power of light should be limited, but also that what is desirable is that an even light should be maintained on unlighted roads, that the proper side should be closely kept, and that oncomers should be passed slowly.

Experiments in Wireless.

While most folk wonderingly talk about the immense possibilities of "wireless," how that this service is but in its infancy, and so on, many experts hold that almost all is known about "wireless" that can be known, that the only thing, in fact, which can be humanly perfected is the loud-speaker.

Be that as it may, there are surely abundant areas for experiment in the application of wireless. One of the most interesting suggestions that have recently appeared concerns the recent mining disaster. It is thought that wireless could be used to facilitate the rescue of entombed miners. The idea has apparently been considered in America, and rejected, but there is no reason why experiments should not continue to be made. It is, of course, a matter for the expert alone, but should he achieve such a triumph it would very certainly be a case of scientific progress being real progress.

Our Collectivists.

I hush to mention the fact, but the Fabians are still alive. One had imagined that these curious, industrious, and quite insignificant folk had fallen, just before the War, from moribundity into complete decay, but it seems, from the fact that the secretary of the Fabian Society, Mr. Edward Pease, has just issued a new edition of the history of these ants of our political thought, that they still breathe. They claim, indeed, to have supplied five Cabinet Ministers and, of course, hordes of the minor office-holders of the first Labour Government. Well, well!

The Fabians, I notice from Mr. Pease's book, still believe that Collectivism is coming. He "diagonyses" the future political situation as "a straight fight between the Conservatism of the

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present and the Socialism which is surely coming." It is a pity that money cannot be laid on political bets, for one would be willing to wager a good deal that, although our next Government may very well be a Labour Government, the people of this country simply will not tolerate experiments in Collectivism, which is State Capitalism, which is the Servile State. For one thing, it seems probable that by the time the Conservatives are dispensed with, local feeling in England will have considerably developed, and, of course, Collectivism is only possible by exploiting a kind of perverted patriotism, which to them merely means unification.

The I.L.P. Conference.

All sorts of rifts and obscurities were discovered at the opening of the I.L.P.'s Annual Conference last Saturday. Not only was there evidence of much dissatisfaction with Mr. MacDonald's late Administration, but vague hints of what might be brought about under a Labour "minority rule" fell plentifully on the air. Both the President, Mr. Clifford Allen, and the Labour ex-Premier talked darkly on this subject. It seems that they are "through with" the traditional theories of democracy, and will entertain gladly the prospect, not only of being in office as a minority, but in power as well. This sort of thing looks as though the theoreticians of the Labour Party were going over to the Communists, but it is well to remember that there will be no free Daimlers coming from Communists.

Alter Ego.

EED-UL-FITR.

The Mohammedan Festival of Eed-ul-Fitr, Kochak Bairam, will be celebrated at the Woking Mosque on Saturday, April 25. Special travelling facilities have been made for the convenience of visitors.

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

Under the auspices of the India Society, M. Sylvain Levi will deliver a lantern lecture on "The Art of Nepal" at 21, Cromwell Road, S.W.7, on Tuesday, April 21, 9 p.m. The Earl of Ronaldshay will preside.

The Hon. Edward Julian Hawke, of the Bombay Company, Ltd., has joined the board of directors of the National Bank of India, Ltd.

Four thousand operatives and clerks employed in the hides and skin industry in Calcutta are striking for higher wages.

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Enquiry Office: CAIRO STATION. Tel. No. 6777.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Yorkshire Regiment arrived at Port Said last Monday on the Maloja en route to England.

Yurenieff, the Soviet diplomatic representative in Rome, has been appointed Soviet representative in Teheran.

The ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi arrived in Genoa from Paris on April 12, and left again for Constantinople and Angora.

Before adjourning on April 12, the Greek National Assembly passed the Bill for reducing the period of active military service from two years to 18 months.

Permission has been given by the Turkish Government for the reopening of the Constantinople branch of the Bank of Athens, which has been closed since 1923, for the purpose of winding up its affairs.

The Earl of Balfour arrived at Alexandria last Monday. There was no demonstration. He was present at the dinner given in his honour by the British community.

At the Geographical Congress in Cairo last Friday the United States Minister presented the explorer Hassanein Bey with the Elisha Kent Kane medal of the Philadelphia Geographical Society.

Fifteen polo ponies belonging to the Maharaja of Jodhpur arrived at Plymouth last Sunday from Bombay. The Maharaja has now seventy-two polo ponies in England in readiness for the coming season.

The death is reported from Simla, at the age of 75, of Risaldar Mazhar Ali Khan, 1st Skinner's Horse, who, in 1879, saved Lord Robert's life during a march along the Chardeh Valey. Mazhar Ali was awarded the Order of Merit for his brave action and promoted to native officer rank.

April 25 is Anzac Day, the 10th anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli (April, 1915). The Anzac Day service of commemoration will be held next Saturday (April 25), at St. Clement Danes, Strand. The Bishop of Rockhampton will be the preacher.

The *Daily Telegraph* Athens correspondent states that the appointment of the General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, M. Argyropoulo, as Greek Minister at Angora, is considered to be additional proof of the impending settlement of outstanding questions between Turkey and Greece.

At a meeting held last week in Athens of Greeks who are Turkish subjects established in Constantinople, but are denied permission by the Turkish Government to return there, a resolution was passed defending the rights of minorities in Constantinople and emphasising their right to return to their homes in Constantinople.

The Italian engineer who was condemned to death in Afghanistan for the murder of a policeman last summer is reported to have escaped from prison and to be in hiding near Kabul. After being sentenced he was handed over to the policeman's relations, who freed him on the payment of blood money, but the police rearrested him.

The Times states that it is reported from Kabul that a German airman named Brustmann, in the service of the Afghan Government, has been shot dead by another German named Hengler as the result of a quarrel over a woman. Hengler was arrested, but was afterwards released on the representation of the German Consul that he (Hengler) fired in self-defence.

According to *Reuter's* Delhi correspondent, Lord Lytton formally assumed the post of Viceroy and Acting Governor-General in the presence of the Executive Council and high officials at the Viceregal Lodge last Friday evening. Mr. Crerar, Secretary to the Home Department, read His Majesty's Warrant, and Sir Brod Bahadur Shadi Lal, Chief Justice of Lahore, administered the oaths of allegiance and of office.

According to the Meshed correspondent of the *Pioneer*, Sheikh Mahdi el Khalissi, the fanatical Shiah Mujtahid, who was expelled from Iraq in July, 1923, died at Meshed on April 6. Orders were given for general mourning in the principal Persian cities. It was for advocating resistance to participation in the Iraq elections that the Baghdad authorities expelled the late Sheikh to Persia, where he, together with the other *ulema* who had sympathetically accompanied him, stirred up much anti-British feeling. Later, these Shiah *ulema* returned to Iraq, but Mahdi el Khalissi remained to the end of his days at Meshed.

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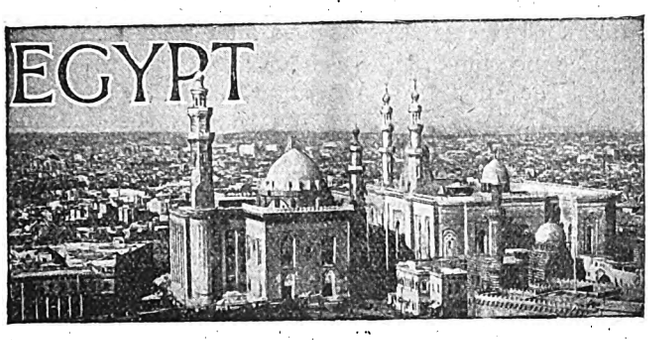
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, April 4.

The Improbability of Revolution.

Vague whisperings of revolutionary possibilities, and these only receiving publication here through the London correspondents of local Arabic newspapers cabling to Cairo what is published in London regarding Egypt, have been the only disturbing factors of the past week. And to call them disturbing factors is to rate such rumours too high. Recent events have shown how insecurely founded is parliamentary government in this country, and it would be foolish to contend that any Egyptian political institution is so strongly rooted as to be immune from all danger. But something more than words are needed for successful revolution. It must be a movement by the Army, or some unit of the population, or by the population as a whole. At the present time the only people who ever use the word revolution are Zaghloulist politicians wishing to impress a foreign audience. Certainly there are in the Wafd camp many men sufficiently enraged to welcome the forcible ejection of the present Ministry, or any other similar Ministry that may succeed it. But while some of these disappointed Zaghloulists might lead any subversive movement that promised success, they are unlikely to embark on any forlorn hopes. The fellaheen are not thinking of revolution. They are not smarting under any especial ill-treatment that might make them easy victims to desperate propaganda. The administration is much the same, whichever party is in power. Individuals who have made themselves politically conspicuous are petted or persecuted according as their party, or its opponents, hold the reins. But for the politically indifferent 90 per cent. the administration is always an object of mingled fear and distrust. As was shown in 1919 in Upper Egypt, when the fellah revolts it is with the intention not of changing the Government, but of abolishing government. That sentiment is rarely strong enough to produce action, and at the present time there is nothing whatever to show that there is revolutionary propaganda going on, or if it is being conducted out of sight that it is gaining adherents.

Government and Cotton.

The most important task before the Government at the present time is to devise measures for preserving the purity of the country's most valuable asset, the Sakellarides cotton crop. For this purpose the Ministry of Agriculture has drafted a law of which the most important proposal is to forbid the sowing of Ashmouni or Zagora cottons north of a line to be fixed, and another law governing the ginning of cotton and the sale and export of seed. These proposals were laid before the Agricultural Advisory Council on Wednesday last, but were not discussed at that meeting. Now the General Agricultural Syndicate, a powerful non-official body, has issued a statement to the effect that the Government's proposals are impractical and technically useless. It looks as though there will be a warm controversy before legislation is finally framed.

The Geographical Congress.

The delegates to the International Geographical Congress have yet hardly settled down to serious work, but they have already done a good deal of sightseeing, and have been the guests of honour at several functions arranged for their benefit. To the general public the most interesting event of the Congress to date has been the presentation by the American Minister of the Elisha Kent Kane Medal to Hassanein Bey. Dr. Morton Howell declared that, by this award, Hassanein Bey took his place in the galaxy which included Peary, Amundsen, Scott, Sven-Hedin, and Shackleton. Hassanein Bey, replying, remarked that a galaxy included stars of all magnitudes, some so small as to be indistinguishable with the naked eye. The Congress much appreciated this witty escape from what had been a somewhat embarrassing shower of compliments.

Village Fires.

The frequent occurrence of disastrous and fatal village fires is attracting attention to the complete absence, in most Egyptian villages, of any sort of fire-fighting equipment. A few weeks ago the Behera village of Rahmania was half destroyed and thirty deaths caused by fire. On Thursday it was the turn of Abu Numros, in Giza province, and the death-roll will probably exceed forty. Both these villages have more than twelve thousand inhabitants each, and so should well be able to afford a fire-engine of their own, even if only a manual engine. The deaths in these fires are in most cases entirely due to the folly of householders, who rush into their burning dwellings to rescue belongings and are buried by falling walls and roofs. Nearly all the houses are made of mud bricks, with rough palm beams. Only the beams are inflammable, but once these are burned through the whole house comes down with a crash. None of the houses are more than two stories high, so that, were it not that the occupants' care for their belongings exceeds that for their own lives, there ought to be no casualties, however extensive the fire.

Alexandria and Lord Balfour.

The Council of the British Community in Alexandria has invited Lord Balfour to a dinner on April 13, on which evening Lord Balfour will be passing through Alexandria, on his way home from Syria. The action of the Alexandria community has distinctly put on its mettle the rival organisa-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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tion—the British Union—which has reluctantly to admit that it has never thought of giving a dinner to anyone.

The Tourist Season.

The last of the tourists are leaving, and only the coming of a world-cruising liner, the s.s. California, at the end of the month now stands between the bazaars, the hotels and the dragomans and their summer idleness. On the whole, the season has been an excellent one. The political crisis of last November clouded prospects for a time, but since a tardy beginning in January, the flow of visitors has been quite as large as the hotels could find room for.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 8.

M. Jorga.

The return of M. Jorga, and his utterances, which have been awaited with interest in various political circles, have consolidated the position of the new united party. Consequently, the hopes which had been cherished by their adversaries of eventual divergencies of opinion and differences in regard to the management of the new party have been dissipated. There was, indeed, a question who should be leader of the Party, M. Jorga or M. Maniu, and the following combination was suggested :—In Opposition M. Jorga was to be at the head of the group, whereas, if they were called to take over the Government, M. Maniu was to be President of the Council. In view of the fact that the Crown does not take into account such private agreements and would address itself directly to the recognised head of the Party, this proposition seemed to leave room for trouble within the young Party, and the agreement has been made rather differently, viz., that M. Jorga and M. Maniu should jointly conduct the activities of the Party. The latter would thus appear to have strengthened his position and grouped his members with a fresh cohesion.

By-Elections.

The by-elections, of which mention was made in my last letter, have taken place. At Reghinul Sasesc, as I anticipated, the candidate of the Averescu group, M. Goga, won without much difficulty. At Gorj, where the Liberals made use of all their electoral machinery, and where there could be no doubt that the result would be in favour of the Government, the remarkable success of the Tsaranist (Peasant) Party's candidate is noteworthy, for he was a near second to the Government's candidate, in spite of the fact that the Party does not appear to have made use of a wide propaganda. This result is the more significant as all the parties were here competing, and all, with the exception of the Tsaranist Party, appear to have expended considerable energy in canvassing. The Tsaranists were therefore able to draw conclusions as to their growing popularity, which was here demonstrated clearly.

Fusion Between Averescans and Tsaranists?

In connection with the above events the tendency should be noted of a *rapprochement* between General Averescu's Party and that of the Tsaranists. Certain persons are disposed to believe that a fusion between these two democratic parties would be possible—the People's Party and the Peasants' Party. Their programmes are, indeed, very similar, and the chief question to be settled would be that of the presidency of the united group. Such a combination would, indeed, be "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Governments and National Development.

Roumania, rich as she is economically and possessing so many resources as yet unexploited, or rather ill exploited, has been suffering a pronounced depression since the War from lack of a definite policy. The only political party which is really well organised and well disciplined is the Liberal Party, and in the absence of a homogeneous opposition, the necessity of complying strictly with national opinion is not severely felt.

Roumania continues to suffer from an economic crisis which has lasted for several years, and which is daily growing worse. The War and the expropriation have exhausted the national capital. It is at present manifest that the only remedy consists in attracting foreign capital under acceptable conditions.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, April 1.

Oil Concession.

The negotiations which have been carried on for the last eighteen months between the Government of Iraq and the Turkish Petroleum Company have ended in the signing of a convention on March 14 granting to the company the right to exploit the petroleum of Iraq, excluding the vilayet of Basrah, for a period of 75 years. The resignations of the Ministers of Justice and Education, who disagreed on the question, have been accepted.

The company will dig wells in twenty-four areas of eight square miles each, and will invite tenders for leases of the remainder of the land, guaranteeing to the lessees, who may be of any nationality, 30 per cent. of the capacity of any pipe-line to the sea which it may construct. A pipe-line to the Mediterranean is under contemplation. After the 75 years of the concession have expired, all the company's wells, buildings, railway lines, and so on become the property of the Iraq Government. A royalty of four shillings per ton is to be received by the Government until twenty years after the completion of the pipe-line; after that a sliding scale has been arranged, varying with the cost of production and transport and the market price of the products, a minimum of two and a maximum of six shillings having been fixed. The advantages to Iraq in employment of labour, provision of cheap oil and petrol, and stimulus to trade generally are incalculable.

Frontier Commission.

The Mosul Frontier Commission has finished its work, and the members have left for Syria, travelling from Mosul to Aleppo without returning to Baghdad. Polite telegrams of farewell were ex-

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changed between the King and the Commissioners and the Prime Minister and the Commissioners, but, though speculation is rife, no hint of the fateful decision or recommendation to the League of Nations has reached the anxious political world of Baghdad.

Desert Outrage.

The tribesmen who on March 5 held up a convoy of the Eastern Transport Company have been arrested, two hundred miles from the scene of the attack, as a result of investigations carried out over a wide area of desert by the Police Camel Corps. All the stolen property has been recovered, and the murderers are reported to have made full confession. It is to be hoped that, in the interests of public safety on this important route, the authorities will not in this case temper justice with mercy.

Celebration of Constitution.

Saturday, March 21, was observed in Iraq as a general holiday in celebration of the establishment of the Constitution of Iraq. The written document was carried in a procession of all the Ministers through the streets of Baghdad to the Palace, where King Faisal appended his signature with a gold pen, which has since been presented to the Baghdad Museum. The decorated streets were lined with cavalry and infantry of the Iraq Army, with detachments of police and Boy Scouts. After the signing of the Constitution by the King, a salute of 101 guns was fired, after which the procession of Ministers returned by the same route. Visits of congratulation were then paid to the King. The new flag of Iraq was hoisted over the Sarai and all Government buildings at noon. In the afternoon a garden party was given by the Lord Mayor of Baghdad. The more sober elements in the capital, having at length obtained their Constitution, are now in natural reaction, experiencing some doubts on its entire suitability as an instrument of government for a country still largely primitive.

Ministerial Visits.

On March 26 the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Air Minister, with their staffs, arrived safely in Baghdad, having flown in five aeroplanes from Ismailia. King Faisal gave a *soirée* in their honour on Saturday, when they met all the members of the Iraq Cabinet and a number of British officials. Commander Hilton Young and Mr. Vernon, who have been deputed to advise the Iraq Government on its financial affairs, were also present.

General.

Very strong protests have been heard in some quarters against the way in which the Parliamentary elections were handled in Baghdad. The supervisory committee is alleged to have tampered with the ballot-box, putting in or abstracting voting papers to the advantage of its particular candidate. An inquiry into the matter is being made.

On March 14 the Tigris rose very suddenly, the current being so rapid that traffic across the river by the upper of Baghdad's two bridges had to be suspended for a time. The new bridge at Adhamiyah was seriously damaged. The recent heavy rains have resulted in a breach in the Baghdad-Mosul railway line between Shargat and Samarrah, causing a temporary suspension of the train service north of Samarrah.

It is noteworthy that so far no cases of plague have occurred in Baghdad this year. The absence of this disease, which usually begins to show itself in January and February, is attributed by the medical authorities to the "effects of the exceptionally cold weather on rats and fleas."

THE "ASIATIC REVIEW."

The April issue of the *Asiatic Review*, which is being published this week, opens with a short letter of congratulation from Lord Curzon a week before he fell ill at Cambridge last month. He writes: "Having been a subscriber to the *Asiatic Review* almost since its foundation, and a contributor as far back as thirty-six years ago, I have perhaps some little right to speak of its character and service. . . . There is hardly a question of Asiatic interest which it has not explored; its columns are open to writers of all nationalities and every opinion; it has carefully avoided the pitfalls either of political partisanship or racial discrimination; great students and scholars have lent distinction to its pages; and the wide outlook, sane judgment, and catholic sympathies of the *Review* have won for it an important place in the periodical literature of our time."

The present issue contains a powerful defence of Persia's interests in the Opium Question from Sir Arnold Wilson, Prof. Gangulee writes on Indian Rural Revival, and the controversy on the Lee Commission Report is continued by Sir Frank Gates. There is a new art feature, with illustrations, and Mr. Stanley Rice contributes a literary article on "The Call of the East."

BENGAL GOVERNORSHIP.

The India Office announces that the King has been pleased to appoint Sir John Kerr, Governor of Assam, to act as Governor of Bengal in place of the Earl of Lytton, while the latter, in accordance with the announcement already made, acts as Governor-General during the absence on leave of the Earl of Reading. The King has also approved the appointment of Sir William Reid to act as Governor of Assam in place of Sir John Kerr while the latter is acting as Governor of Bengal.

In consequence of the death of Mohamed Ali, formerly Shah of Persia, the Persian Legation in London was closed from last Thursday for three days.

It is officially announced by the War Office that arrangements are being made for a full military funeral for General Lord Rawlinson to be held in London. As soon as the date on which Lord Rawlinson's body will arrive in England is definitely known, details of the ceremony will be published.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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BRITAIN AND THE PALESTINE ARABS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a letter, dated March 31, signed by Mr. Leonard Stein, and published in your issue of April 9. Mr. Stein refers to the pledges made in favour of Arab independence. Such evidence as can be gathered from official publications points to the conclusion that Palestine was included in the area in which Arab independence was to be recognised and supported. No official apologist, so far as I am aware, denied that Palestine was included. The custom has been not to deny this, but to plead that it was never intended. In the pages which you did not publish of my article I have given the evidence upon which my conclusions are based. Were you to publish that part of my article Mr. Stein would have an opportunity of correcting me if my conclusions are unfounded, and your readers could judge for themselves.—I am, etc.,

E. T. Richmond.

The Elms, Ditchling, Sussex, April 11.

[We have, unfortunately, no space at our disposal for the setting out of Mr. Richmond's thesis, outlined in his letter.—Ed.]

THE ARMENIANS.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association was held, by courtesy of Mr. Noel Buxton, at 12, Rutland Gate, on March 26, to discuss "The Future of the Armenians." In the absence of Lord Cavendish-Bentinck Sir Harry Lamb presided, and the chief speakers were the Rev. Harold Buxton and Dr. E. H. Griffin.

The Rev. Harold Buxton first drew attention to the geographical position of Armenia, explaining that it stood on the routes north and south and east and west of the Caucasus. That position, which implied the envying watch of Powers like Russia and Turkey, was the key to the history of Armenia. This history he divided up into three classes: (1) Foreign domination; (2) limited autonomy; and (3) independence. The first was the usual phase. After briefly tracing the tale of Armenia, he stated that, since Turkey, in 1915, resolved that there should for her be no more Armenian question the question of Armenia had now become wholly a Russian one. The independence which it had received, together with States like Georgia and Azerbaijan, at the end of the War, endured but a short time because of inter-racial rivalries; but the present condition of the Armenian Republic, although it was one of the federated Caucasian States and a conscripted member of the U.S.S.R., was at least tolerable. In his visit to the Erivan Republic he had found the Armenian "Red" leaders energetic and able men, and he believed in their sincerity, in spite of the attitude which they adopted towards education and religion. It was because those responsible at Geneva for the Armenian refugees believed in the sincerity of these men and in the possibilities of a prosperous State centring in Erivan that they proposed in April to send out a Commission which should report on the best ways in which Government grants could be utilised in the colonising of the refugees at present in places like Egypt, Syria, Constantinople, Greece, Bulgaria, and so on. The future of the Armenian people, of whom he thought there were nearly one and a half million in the Erivan State, lay wholly with Russia. If Russia endured, probably Armenia would endure, and he did not think there was much chance of its being overset by Turkey, for the simple reason that, if Turkey, urged on by the oil-hunters of Europe, played with designs on the Caucasus, Russia could always pinch her tail in Thrace.

Dr. Griffin pleaded that, since the Rev. Harold Buxton had avoided mention of the word "massacres," there was little left for him to say. He attributed, apparently, the misfortunes of the Armenians to the fact that the Young Turks, being spurned by Great Britain, fell into the hands of Germany. Personally, he could see no reason why the Armenians, if they were to work loyally in Turkey and resist being stirred up by "missionaries" from Europe and America, should not find security in Anatolia, and, indeed, they might once again occupy Cabinet posts. The fact that religion was not now being taught in Russian Armenia to children under sixteen years of age he thought a good thing: religion in that part of the world seemed to make people so quarrelsome. As evidence of this sentiment, he instanced the fact that, whereas during the Boer War prayers were offered of a Friday in Turkish mosques for the triumph of British arms, in Christian churches during the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913, when "Balkan bandits" fell upon civilised Turkey, prayers were offered for the defeat of the Mohammedans.

In the subsequent discussion Professor Arnold Toynbee gave his opinion that there had been a great change for the better in the condition of small nationalities living within the Russian State. Whereas in the Tsarist régime everything had been done to Russify these tenacious peoples, now, at least on paper, they had been granted a degree of autonomy, a grant which was, moreover, in keeping with the spirit of the times, and would probably increase rather than diminish. It was good fortune that the Armenians' future lay wholly with Russia, for the simple reason that Turkey, like the Balkan States, had gone intensely national. Though Armenia might not become independent, the probability was that it would become autonomous within the Soviet federation.

Other speakers alluded to the fact that the spiritual head of the Armenians now was the Patriarch at Jerusalem, that the boundaries of the Erivan Republic just failed to include Mount Ararat, and that Great Britain, because of the Cyprus Convention (by which we gained Cyprus on the condition that reforms were carried out in Turkey), was under not only a moral but also a legal obligation to the Armenian people.

Sir Harry Lamb, in concluding the meeting, referred to the fact that the Armenians were an intelligent, tenacious, industrious, and, like the Jews, whom, incidentally, they resembled in many other respects, prolific people, and he believed that there was every chance that they would make good.

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The Egyptian Government has decided to institute a special Legation in Brussels distinct from that of Paris. The Egyptian Minister in Brussels will be Zadek Wahba Pasha.

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Near East Bookshelf.

EGYPTIAN INDEPENDENCE.

"EGYPT UNDER THE EGYPTIANS." By Murray Harris. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

It is not a difficult task for any writer to show that Great Britain has not handled the Egyptian problem with success, and when he is as well primed with first-hand information as Mr. Murray Harris is, there is the danger of the temptation to flog a dead horse. Mr. Harris is saved from this pitfall by his intimate knowledge of Egypt and the Egyptians, and after making his point is more or less content merely to hold up the mirror to Egypt. He believes that Great Britain ought to have annexed Egypt at the outbreak of the War and given her Dominion Home Rule at the end of it. Other considerations, however, weighed with those who were responsible for arriving at a decision in the matter. There can be little doubt as to the trouble caused by the policy adopted, but only the future can decide whether what has happened is not for the best in the long run. At the root of the trouble our author would put the lack of education among the Egyptians. He does not hold with some critics that the British educational authorities are to blame for this state of affairs, because it seems to him that the means for satisfying any desire for education are there, but that the Egyptians do not avail themselves of them. "It is doubtful whether the nation as a whole desires Western education. . . . Egyptians certainly do not wish to pay for it." There are individuals who have enjoyed a proper education and who can take their place among Europeans of similar standing anywhere, but independence came before this nucleus was large enough to take charge of the country. Two drawbacks to the spread of education are the hareem system and the language. "The clumsy knife of Arabic cannot possibly compete with the high-speed tool of English, French, or German": and we learn that in Arabic there are a hundred words for a lion and countless ones for a camel, including one meaning a she-camel blind in the left eye, but none for a typewriter.

The book is to be strongly recommended to Egyptians. It is a critical analysis of present-day conditions in Egypt, but neither prompted by venom nor wholly pessimistic in its outlook, provided that, with good will on each side, the principle of internal independence is reconciled with the vital interest of Great Britain in the Suez Canal. The chief stumbling-block for the Egyptian Government lies in the technical branches of the administration. "The incompetence of half a dozen irrigation engineers may impoverish a whole Mudiria." If Mr. Harris considers that dry rot has set in already in Egypt, it may at least be worth the while of patriotic and enlightened Egyptians to examine his contention with a view to finding out whether there is any truth in it, and, if so, how much. It is only by aiming at the highest possible standard that a satisfactory level of efficiency is likely to be attained.

"SOLITUDINEM FACIUNT."

"THEY MAKE A DESERT." By Francisco Nitti. Translated from the Italian by F. Brittain. (London: Dent and Sons. 10s. 6d. net.)

This is an extraordinary and remarkable book, giving one to wonder from start to finish why it was written. Outwardly it would seem to be an indignant and passionate essay on the causes of the present condition of Europe—especially with a view to their realisation in Great Britain and America—but inwardly it bears evidence of propaganda for internal consumption in Italy and Germany. This will inevitably increase the mistrust already existing. Much of it, moreover, is vitiated by unseemly exaggeration.

Does Signor Nitti really believe that the Treaty of Versailles is the most dishonest, outrageous, and designing document recorded in modern history? It is simply untrue, and he himself should know it well. Did President Wilson really agree to a Treaty which was the negation of all his principles? Probably the most unhappy fact regarding the Treaty is that it is the logical outcome of his principles, and whatever one may think of this statesman, it is certain that his main equipment was his obstinacy as regards what he believed to be his principles. Are there really any clauses of the Treaty which are dishonourable? Foolish, perhaps, but it is indeed far-fetched to characterise the logical Danzig corridor as dishonourable. It is simply ridiculous to pretend that the League of Nations will defend crime, while it is certain that they will not knowingly prepare the ground for new wars.

Does France really desire to control Europe? We have lately seen the German and Austrian Empires in conjunction attempt to do so and fail, owing to the lack of good will of Great Britain and of America. Is that good will now in evidence? To do France justice, moreover, no one with even a slight knowledge of it and its public men will deny that there is no desire for control—only an overwhelming anxiety for the safety of her borders, coupled with a probably unnecessary fear of the designs of Germany.

All these criticisms on statements from the first few pages of the book, which could be almost indefinitely increased from further quotations, are based on the author's own opinions of the Treaty of Versailles, as regards which he states:—

> I have studied the Treaty of Versailles in detail. I have examined it in every clause, and I am convinced that not only was it conceived in a spirit of hatred and without any thought of peace; that not only was it a vast encyclopædia of acts of plunder of every kind, but also that clever men introduced into it, without the knowledge of the most responsible parties, clauses which were to serve as pretexts for every kind of future violence. Almost all of the arrangements of the Treaty, including those which were passed without discussion as forming part of appendices and which escaped notice, and are now the cause of every kind of violence, formed part of a programme and of a plan which had long been premeditated—the French plan of dismembering Germany, of ruining her, and of obtaining thereby the control of Europe's coal and iron and thence the political and military primacy of Europe.

It does not appear at what period Signor Nitti made this study and arrived at these deductions, but if this was achieved prior to his signing the ratification in January, 1920, it is most disheartening for the public to learn that a highly responsible Minister of one of the Great Powers could possibly have brought himself to do so. It was indeed dishonest, and a betrayal of his trust for mankind.

Dealing with the sequelæ of the Treaty, the author describes the occupation of the Ruhr dis-

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trict as a blacker crime than the historical partition of Poland or the violation of Belgium in 1914! It is probable that by now every responsible party regrets this action. In fact, all but the French did so at the time, but can it by any standard be truly described as a crime, and is not the comparison simply ludicrous? It is, indeed, lamentable that Signor Nitti should make use of such wild exaggerations, inflaming uninstructed public opinion, and causing a smouldering resentment which will eventually result in further and yet more terrible wars. All this, it must be borne in mind, at the same time, as the author points out, when France has a greater Army under arms than before the War and has created an immense air fleet.

If this book were to be widely read and believed one can only envisage an ever-increasing desire for revenge by Germany, and one can only pray that the author will not extend his literary activities to Austria and the Balkans.

Apart from Signor Nitti's desire to make our flesh creep and to paint the present state of affairs in the blackest tints available, the book is highly to be commended to students of history for its numerous authentic details of how the history of the time was made and the present uncomfortable conditions in Europe arrived at. To this end a second edition seems desirable, written with less passion and a better appreciation of what is permanent and what is transient.

Regarding the future, Signor Nitti seems to desire that the U.S.A. should come to realise that active intervention in the affairs of Europe, and especially in the relations between France and Germany, is desirable. The pity is that his barely half-veiled suggestion is wholly in favour of Germany, and shows little appreciation of the fact that France has had real cause to fear Germany and her ambitions and bullying ways in the period prior to the war.

Such intervention might succeed for the moment, but can only be transient, for it is incredible that America will maintain sufficient armed forces to hold the peace permanently between France and Germany, or any other choice of a couple of European Powers. Such peace must come from within, and nothing can be more certain than that for the interests of mankind, and in view of the innate common sense existing in both countries, it will come.

Resuscitating all the evil deeds, assumptions, and gossip of the war will certainly not help, and one can only deplore that this very eminent writer should have done so, and, worse still, have accentuated them by wilful exaggerations and the ascribing of what were attempted measures of peace to capitalistic ambitions and intrigues.

The index is sufficient, but the book sadly lacks a map or maps.

It is impossible to end without calling attention to the highly pathetic and wholly delightful inscription of the author, "To my wife Antonia."

Philip Dumas, Vice-Admiral.

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THE EVOLUTION OF MAN.

"THE ORIGIN OF MAN" and "MAN AND HIS SUPERSTITIONS." By Carveth Read. (Cambridge University Press. 5s. and 12s. 6d. respectively.)

Five years ago Professor Carveth Read published his interesting and stimulating book on "The Origin of Man and of his Superstitions," the defect of which was that the work really treated two almost separate subjects. This has now been remedied by the publication, after much correction, of the two parts as separate books. In the first Mr. Read develops his interesting theory that the first step towards the development of the human strain from the race which is the common ancestor of man and of the anthropoid ape was the desire of certain individuals for a flesh diet and the consequent growth of a hunting pack. As he supposes this to have occurred some three millions years ago, it can hardly be expected that he is able to prove his theory. Equally it may be said to be impossible to disprove it. And, in any case, as we have said above, he presents us with a book that is both interesting and stimulating.

In the longer work Professor Read is writing of matters which can be more easily followed. His accounts of animism and magic and his theories of their origin are of great value, and are devoid of scientific jargon, so that any reasonably cultured person can study them with enjoyment, which will be not a little quickened by the quiet hints at the holes in the clothes of modern enlightenment.

P. S.-W.

PARSI CHRISTIANS.

"THEREFORE." An impression of Sorabji Kharsedji Langrana and his wife. (Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

This work is the biography, written in the style of the life of a mediæval saint, of two Christian converts from the Parsi community, together with their sufferings. It is clearly a work of a devotional rather than a critical character, and must be approached in that spirit. It is well illustrated, and contains, besides several portraits of the hero and heroine, interesting reproductions of Old Bombay in 1791.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Economic Conditions in India." By P. Padmanabha Pillai. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Asoka Text and Glossary." By Alfred C. Woolner. Parts I. and II. (London: Humphrey Milford. 18s. net the 2 vols.)

"My Journey Down the Tigris: A Raft-Voyage Through Dead Kingdoms" By Dr. S. Guyer, Ph.D. Translated by Joseph McCabe. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Zionism." By Leonard Stein. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Trade Routes and Commerce of the Roman Empire." By M. P. Charlesworth. (London: Cambridge University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Colette." By Josephine de Noroc. (London: Geoffrey Bles. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Straws in the Wind." By Commander H. G. Stoker, D.S.O., R.N. Illustrated. (London: Herbert Jenkins. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Soldiers and Others I have Known: Reminiscences that Cover Nearly Half a Century." By Major-General Sir John Adye, K.C.M.G., C.B. With twenty illustrations in colour and half-tone. (London: Herbert Jenkins. 15s. net.)

"Articles on the Italo-American Entente." By Luigi Criscuolo. (New York: Charles H. Jones. $2.00.)

"The Heart of Aryavarta: A Study of the Psychology of Indian Unrest." By the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Ronaldshay, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., etc. (London: Constable and Co. 14s. net.)

"The Great Betrayal: A Survey of the Near East Problem." By Edward Hale Bierstadt. With a frontispiece and twelve other illustrations and maps. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 15s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 16, 1925 (New Style).
April 3, 1925 (Old Style).
Ramadan 22, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Nisan 22, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught arrived from India last Saturday at 41, Belgrave Square.

Mr. Alex. Devine has left for Rome, Belgrade, and Athens.

Lord and Lady Reading sailed from Bombay for England last Friday.

Major Gannon will leave Bombay for England on April 25 in the Kaisar I Hind.

Sir Edwin Lutyens sailed last Saturday in the Cunard liner Mauretania for New York.

Sir Montague and Lady Sharpe have returned to Brent Lodge, Hanwell, from Egypt.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside arrived last week at 23, Grosvenor Place from Portugal.

Lady Margaret Bickersteth and Miss Ruth Bickersteth have been making a stay in Cairo.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur arrived in London last Saturday from India. He has taken a house at Richmond.

Vedid Bey, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, has recovered from his recent illness, and resumed his duties last week.

Lady Sanderson, wife of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta, arrived in London last Saturday from India.

Colonel the Hon. Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley and Miss Lawley have returned to 9, Seymour Street from South America.

Sir Montagu C. Turner was among the passengers who left London last Thursday by the P. and O. s. Mooltan for Marseilles.

Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore, wife of the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., gave birth to a son at 5, Mansfield Street, W., last Sunday.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., M.P., will join Lady Maud Hoare in Egypt on his return from Iraq. They will arrive at 18, Cadogan Gardens at the end of April.

The Master of Elibank and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray spent Easter at Wentworth, Virginia Water. They returned to 187, St. James's Court, last Tuesday.

Messrs. Theodore, Jun., and Kermit Roosevelt were to sail from New York last Saturday in the Leviathan on their way to India and Turkestan, where they are going on a big-game expedition.

While General Sir C. W. Jacob is acting as Commander-in-Chief in India, Major-General Franks, commanding the Kohat District, will take his place as G.O.C.-in-C. the Northern Command (India).

Seyed Qasim Khan, Counsellor at the Afghan Legation, who for the past ten months has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires, left London last Monday for Kabul. Abdul Samad Khan, Secretary, left on the previous day.

Lord Stevenson will read a paper before a joint meeting of the Dominions and Colonies and Indian sections of the Royal Society of Arts this afternoon on "The British Empire Exhibition." The chair will be taken at 4.30 p.m. by Sir Charles Campbell McLeod, Bt.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape returned to London on April 7 from Egypt and the South of France. They left for Scotland the following day for the trial of the new P. and O. steamer Comorin on the Clyde, after which they spent a few days of the Easter recess at Glenapp, Ayrshire.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on April 6 the president announced that the King had approved of the award of the Founder's Medal to Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce for his lifelong geographical work in the exploration of the Himalaya, culminating in the leadership of the Mount Everest Expeditions of 1922 and 1924, and that the Council had awarded the Gill Memorial to Major R. E. Cheesman for his journey to the deserts of Jafura and Jabrin.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1925.

INDIA IN LONDON.

The office of the High Commissioner for India is one of the youngest of London's institutions, but it is already established so firmly as to attract a considerable volume of criticism, directed less to what it does than to what it has hitherto left undone. Much of the criticism which comes from India can be treated as negligible, the offspring of ignorance, parochialism, or personal feeling, but there is a substantial residuum which deserves the attention of the authorities, and our present purpose is to review the position and indicate the lines along which it is desirable to advance. The topic is one on which we have some claim to be heard, for THE NEAR EAST was the first journal in this country to suggest that the agency business of the Government of India should be taken out of the hands of the Secretary of State and placed directly under Indian control. That view was accepted by the Crewe Committee, which reported in 1919, and the result was the creation of the High Commissionership. Like other offices of the kind, its functions are twofold. On one side, it is an agent for conducting State business; on the other, it is expected to facilitate and promote private trade. Much progress has been made in transferring the agency work of Government from Whitehall to Grosvenor Gardens, and we have seen no serious complaints of any loss of efficiency from the change. Under this head criticism is directed to the fact that the change is still incomplete, and, in particular, to the retention by the India Office of the handling of high finance. The feeling in India on this subject is deep, and, in our opinion, dangerous. The demand is that, while the Secretary of State should for the present continue to exercise his statutory power of control in regard to the raising of sterling loans and similar matters, he should cease to take an active part in the resulting business, which should be transacted by the High Commissioner with the assistance of the Imperial Bank, now an established institution in the City. We use the word feeling advisedly, because the demand is largely sentimental, but in all Indian affairs sentiment counts for much, and there is no use shutting our eyes to the fact that the existing arrangements are distrusted very widely in India, where it is very commonly believed that the interests of the country are habitually sacrificed for the benefit of a few favoured City firms. The belief is entirely mistaken, but it festers all the same, and it is very largely responsible for the present unhealthy state of opinion in Indian mercantile circles, especially in Bombay. The only way to kill it is to put the business into different hands. The High Commissioner is answerable to the Government of India, which must either recall him or defend his actions against Indian criticism, and the business comes within his proper sphere: the Secretary of State is the Government's master, and even his mistakes must be loyally defended by his servants. So long as he has any hand in agency, as distinct from control, the present distrust is bound to continue, and we believe the situation is one which calls for a clear cut and a final divorce of Whitehall from India's financial transactions.

Turning to the promotion of private trade, the position of the High Commissioner is at present decidedly unsatisfactory. He has, indeed, a Trade Commissioner on his staff, but the functions of this officer are as yet one-sided. His business is to promote sales to India, but he has practically nothing to do with the marketing of Indian goods. Now, India sells as well as buys, and it is certainly anomalous, as well as injurious, that she should not be represented in the greatest buying market in the world. Last year's experience at Wembley showed, at any rate, that Indian producers, particularly the smaller men, can hope to do profitable business in London, but the majority of them have not the resources to set up separate agencies, a process which is wasteful in itself, and it may fairly be contended that the experience of the Dominions establishes the fact that the promotion of sales is an essential part of a High Commissioner's duty, or, to use the current phrase, that he should maintain a shop-window in London for the country which he represents. It is possible, in the present state of Indian ignorance, that development in this direction might elicit protests from the people who hate to see commodities leaving the country, but that eccentric mentality is not likely to last for long, and against such protests must be set the fact that Indian producers are coming rapidly to recognise the advantages of access to foreign markets, while they are beginning to make their wishes heard. We think, then, that the time has come when the Government of India should decide on a forward policy in matters of trade, and should employ the High Commissioner's office definitely as a commercial agency working in both directions, assisting Indian sellers as well as Indian buyers, and emulating, if not surpassing, the efficiency already attained by the offices of the various Dominions.

The considerations we have advanced lead directly to a third group of criticisms, which are directed against the present location of the High Commissioner's office. Londoners can, indeed, smile when they read in Indian journals of Grosvenor Gardens as a residential area remote from business. Brass plates and trade signs adorn nearly every house in the Gardens, which are now definitely included in the Westminster business centre, but the question remains whether it is the right centre for the High Commissioner's special work. For some of the agency business it is doubtless convenient enough, but for the promotion of trade it must be definitely condemned, while for finance it is too far distant from the City, where every minute counts. In location then, as in functions, we think the Government of India would be wise to profit by the experience of the Dominions, and find room for their High Commissioner somewhere in the Strand or Kingsway neighbourhood. A decision on this point cannot be long delayed. The existing offices are imposing in at least one sense of that ambiguous word, because the exterior suggests the existence of much more space than is actually available, and the extension of functions which is now required will involve the provision of increased accommodation. The wise course, therefore, is to choose a site now which will be really serviceable for all the branches of activity for which provision will ultimately have to be made, and to start there at once with a new India House, recalling by force of contrast the almost forgotten glories of the old.

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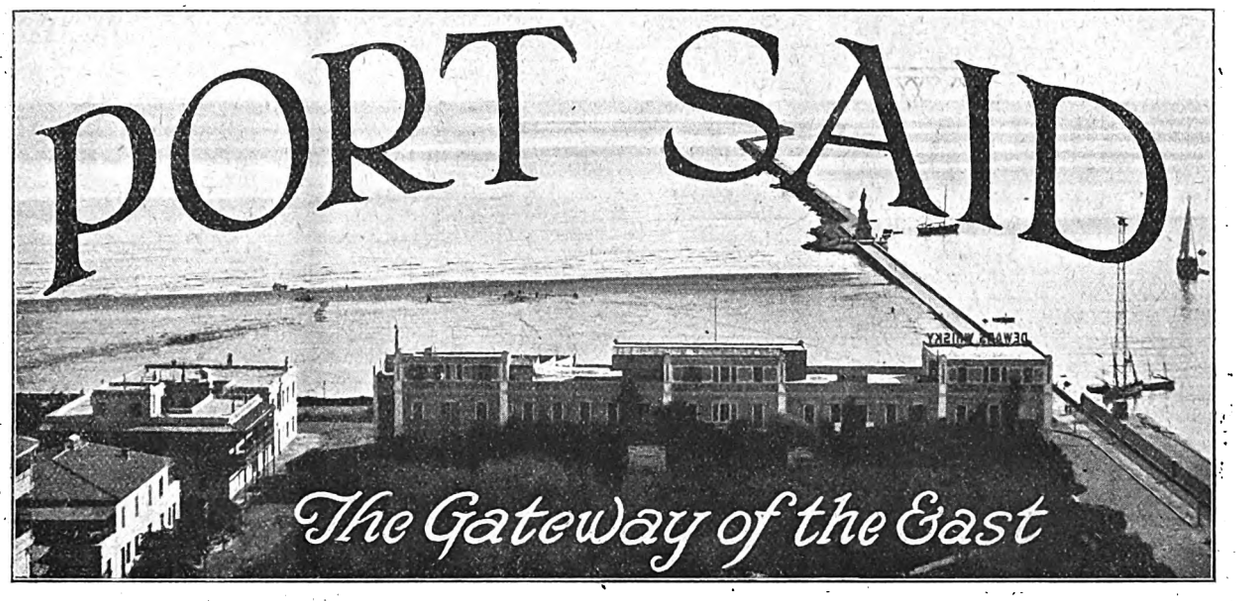

PORT SAID.

By VICTOR L. TRUMPER.

Broadly speaking, the port of Port Said owes its origin to the Suez Canal, for when the French engineers first came they found merely a strip of sandy beach between the Mediterranean and the shallow lagoon known as Lake Menzaleh, which was barely sufficient to accommodate their sheds and tents. There are, however, many traces showing that the district was occupied in ancient times; for a couple of generations ago there were substantial Roman tombs still existing near Port Said, and the remains at Mahendia, about twenty miles down the coast towards Palestine, indicate a Græco-Roman seaside resort. Also on the islands in Lake Menzaleh, near Port Said, are Roman remains, pointing to a permanent and settled occupation.

The overseas trade on the eastern side of the Nile Delta used to be absorbed by Damietta, a town at the mouth of the Damietta branch of the Nile; but as Port Said rose so Damietta declined, until now it is hardly more than a large village, whose trade is carried on by sailing dhows. The reasons for the rise of Port Said and the decline of Damietta may be briefly summed up as follows: (1) The position of Port Said as an indispensable port of call for all vessels going to or coming from the East; (2) the progressive facilities for handling the trade and commerce carried out by the Suez Canal Company; (3) the easy communication for both passengers and cargo between Port Said and the rest of Egypt by the Egyptian State Railway.

The phenomenal growth of the harbour of Port Said is shown by the fact that, whereas in 1869 the area was 160.5 acres, in 1908 it was 439.7, and was 730 acres in 1923, thus exceeding by 44 acres the combined areas of the following London docks—viz., St. Katherine, London, West India, East India and Blackwall, Royal Victoria and Albert, Tilbury, Millwall, and Surrey Commercial.

Not less remarkable is the increase of the size of the ships which use the harbour. In the year 1880 a ship of 300 ft. in length and 50 ft. wide was considered a large ship. Recently a vessel 794 ft. long and 86 ft. wide was accommodated with the greatest ease. The depth of water has also been increased to keep pace with the increased size of the ships, and is now 39¼ ft.

Although not so spectacular as many, the breakwater at Port Said is one of the longest and most successful in the world. The choice of the site of Port Said as the northern terminus of the Canal was governed by the fact that at this point the deep water of the Mediterranean approached nearer to the shore than further east, which would have been the obvious place for the Canal to debouch into the Mediterranean if the shortest cut across the isthmus had been the only consideration. However, it would have meant a much longer dredged channel from the beach to the deep water, so the site of Port Said was chosen, as M. de Lesseps decided that the maintenance charges per mile of the Canal would be much less than those of the entrance channel, as the latter would be constantly filled up with silt from the Nile, which sets eastward along the coast practically the year round. This current also necessitated a long breakwater on the western side of the channel, not only to protect the ships coming in from the violence of the weather, but to mitigate the filling up of the channel by the sediment. Even as it is, the Canal Company keep three large dredgers at work all the year round to maintain and deepen this channel.

The western breakwater, which is now over 3½ miles long, is formed of a core of rough blocks of stone, brought from the quarries at Jebel Attaka, near Suez, with an outer covering of huge artificial cement blocks weighing 15 to 30 tons apiece, and about 2,000,000 tons of material have been used. There is also a much smaller and shorter breakwater on the eastern side of the channel to protect it when the wind is on that side. The making of the western breakwater has also had an effect which was, perhaps, not fully foreseen when it was commenced, for by stopping the ordinary silt sweeping down the coast it has made the land grow on the west side, until now it is at least 700 yards farther out than the original coast line.

It must be remembered that, though politically Port Said is an Egyptian town, by the Convention of February 1, 1902, between the Canal Company and the Egyptian Government the former were acknowledged to be in sole charge of the harbour of Port Said, with powers to direct all commercial operations, and have the entire management of everything connected with the port. Thus was Port Said saved from the horrors of a dual control, and by a unified and progressive policy has become one of the model harbours of the world. Naturally the Egyptian Government as the Sovereign power retained control of the Customs and police, but everything else is in the hands of the Canal Company. A possible exception is, however, the lighthouse, which is under the control of the Ports and Lights Administration, who have charge of all the

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lights on the Egyptian coasts and adjacent islands. This lighthouse is a fine octagonal tower; the lantern is 180 ft. above sea level, and the light, which has recently been changed from electric to incandescent petrol, has a nominal range of twenty miles.

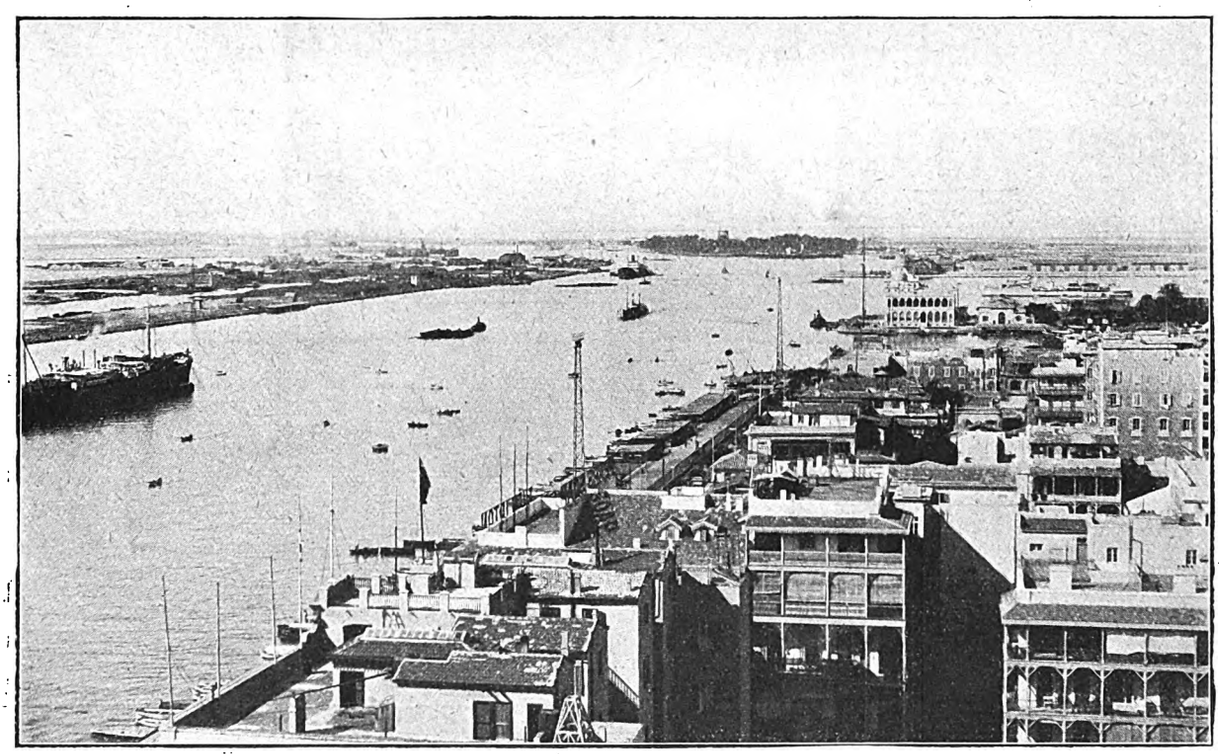
Just before the War the Suez Canal Company were on the point of transferring their engineering plant from Port Said to the east side of the harbour, as the available accommodation was very limited and the needs were growing. Large and well-equipped sheds had been erected, but the War came and prevented for a time the realisation of this scheme. However, Providence had ordained them for a still better use, as they were turned into hospitals for the sick and wounded in the Palestine campaign, as well as for those from the Dardanelles. There was not a more spacious or healthily situated hospital in Egypt. Now the whole of the Canal Company's Port Said plant is over on the east side, and a large town, built on the best town-planning scheme, accommodates the numerous employees. In this town there is accommodation for 341 families, with a stadium for sports, shady avenues, gardens, etc., while a frequent system of ferries across the harbour maintains communication with Port Said itself, where also the Canal Company have numerous large and well-built apartments for the staff, as well as a co-operative store and a pharmacy, dispensary, etc.

A word may be said here as to the policy of the Canal Company in regard to the use of their works. Primarily, of course, they are for the repair and maintenance of their own large plant, but they do undertake outside work if the engineering firms in Egypt say that the job is too big for them. In other words, the Canal Company do not compete with private firms, but if it is a case of a ship being delayed through a breakdown they put the whole of their plant and staff at the disposal of the ship. The people employed by the Canal Company in Port Said number nearly 2,000, to say nothing of those working for contractors employed by the company.

The amount of cargo on board ships passing through the Suez Canal hardly comes within the scope of this article, but the following figures give an idea of the importance of this place as the great gateway of the East. The figures are for the last five years, and show the amount of cargo in tons that passed through the Canal: In 1919, 13,973,000; in 1920, 17,047,000; in 1921, 17,509,000; in 1922, 21,361,000; in 1923, 22,777,000.

The amount of cargo handled at Port Said is, however, by no means a small quantity, as, besides that landed for or shipped from Egypt itself, a large quantity is landed by through ships into the bonded stores, and from here distributed to surrounding countries. In the year 1923 the figures for Port Said of the number of vessels which used the port, but did not transit the Canal, were as follows:—Vessels entered, 523; cargo landed, 468,630 tons; passengers landed, 7,144; vessels left, 530; cargo shipped, 112,933 tons; passengers embarked, 4,016.

To most passengers Port Said is synonymous with coaling, for few ships enter the harbour without replenishing their bunkers here. The tonnage of coal shipped here was 1,001,878 in 1891. 1,018,177 in 1900, and 864,808 in 1923. The apparent diminution in the year 1923 is accounted for by the large and increasing number of ships that are using oil as their motive power, whether in internal combustion engines or as fuel oil to heat the boilers.



THE SUEZ CANAL AT PORT SAID, LOOKING SOUTH.

In 1923 153,788 tons of fuel oil were taken by ships, which, allowing one ton of oil to equal one and a half to two tons of coal makes it somewhat more than the year 1900. This lack of any great increase is attributed to various causes, such as the slump in shipping and the competition of other ports, such as Algiers, Oran, Port Sudan, and Perim. The Canal Company foreseeing the large increase in oil-using vessels have now seven berths in the harbour where vessels can take oil supplies from a pipe-line on shore.

The water supply of Port Said is in the hands of the Canal Company, who have a large and efficient filtering apparatus, which makes the water brought from the Nile by open canal into wholesome and palatable drinking water. Owing to the larger demand caused by the growth of the population, which now numbers about 80,000, the plant is being greatly increased, so that there will be a

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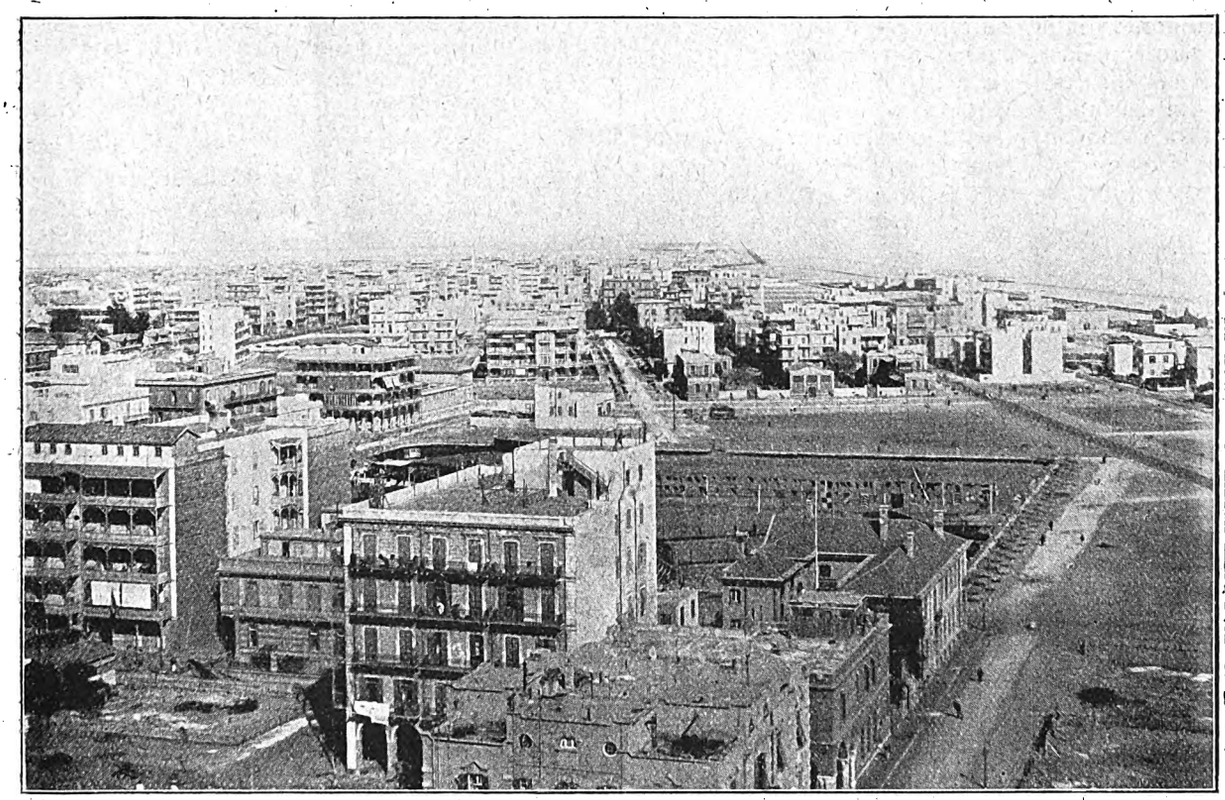
bigger margin of filtered water in hand in case of anything happening to the source of supply.

The health of Port Said is extraordinarily good, which fact is primarily due to its healthy position and the sea breezes, and a secondary but by no means unimportant cause is the good drainage scheme which was inaugurated some years ago by Lord Kitchener. When it is remembered that all the road pipes are at or below sea level, the difficulties surmounted to make an efficient drainage can be easier imagined than described. The town of recent years has improved greatly under the enlightened direction of the various Governors that we have had, all of whom when they left have been transferred to much more important posts. The municipal gardens and the fine avenues of trees are a real tribute to the care and efficiency of those responsible, and the general cleanliness of the town will bear favourable comparison with anything in the East.

There is now a small museum, where the traveller who cannot go to Cairo may yet get some idea of the wonders of Egypt's past, or if he is differently minded he can have a choice of cinemas and jazz bands at the hotels and cafés. In days gone by when a mail ship was sighted all the old waiters were routed out, put into evening dress, and as the ship came up the harbour the passengers could see crowds of people in the cafés winning large sums of money at *rouge et noir*, etc. This generally had the desired effect, and the simple passenger came ashore to share in the spoil. He was lucky if he got back on board, in time not to miss the ship, without having lost any clothes as well as all his money, etc. Now the passenger can come ashore and have no greater adventure than to be addressed as the Bishop of London or Clara Butt, according to sex. In fact, as far as safety and police arrangements go, one is as safe here as in any part of London. The shops will provide the passenger with anything that he or she wants, and the supplies of fruit and vegetables the year round are the envy of many who come out from England. Altogether Port Said need not be ashamed to find itself in any company that the world can produce.



THE TOWN OF PORT SAID, LOOKING WEST.

SUEZ.

By VICTOR L. TRUMPER.

The town of Suez, from which the famous maritime canal takes its name, has had a very chequered history. It is possible that it is the same town that classical writers call Clysma or Clusma; later on, in the early days of the Arab occupation of Egypt, there was a town called Kolzum (possibly a corruption of Clysma), which occupied a site near to the present Suez. In the Middle Ages, when the Portuguese began to use the Cape route to India, the Venetians, who up till then had had the monopoly of the Eastern trade, in alliance with the Egyptians, built and equipped fleets at Suez in an attempt to hold their trade. However, as history shows, it was a vain attempt, and Suez gradually declined in importance, only waking into a fitful and spurious activity during the pilgrim season, when the Egyptian and North African pilgrims for Mecca passed through. Some went by sea to Yenbo or Jeddah; others, who wished to secure greater merit by vastly increasing the dangers and hardships of the journey, went by land from Suez to Akaba, and thence *via* Medina to Mecca.

In 1840 Thomas Waghorn, who had been a pilot in the Bengal pilot service, organised the overland route to India, and the fortunes of Suez began to mend. Passengers and mails were landed at Alexandria, brought on camel-back across the Delta to Suez, and then embarked on a steamer there. It is said that even coal for the steamers was brought over in this fashion. However, a railway was opened later, which somewhat mitigated the fatigue of the journey.

In 1869 the Suez Canal was opened, and, except for the mails, the overland route was at once superseded. The British Post Office could not be brought to believe in the practicability of the Canal, and

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they compelled the P. and O. Company to adhere to the old contract, which meant that the mails were landed at Alexandria and sent across the isthmus, while the ship that had landed them proceeded to Port Said, went on through the Canal, and picked up the same mails again at Suez. This went on for two years until the force of public opinion put a stop to the farce.

Several miles north of Suez the Canal, in coming from Port Said, makes a detour towards the east, and enters the Gulf of Suez somewhat to the south-east of Suez proper. This is said to have been done for political reasons, but it is more likely that it was to give room for the necessary works on both sides of the Canal. The detour, however, meant the creation of a new port, which was named Port Tewfik. Later on the Khedivial Mail and Steamship Company established engineering works and a large dry-dock at Port Tewfik for their Red Sea lines; but the dry-dock was available for all shipping that was not too big to use it. The wet-dock accommodation consists of two basins which have an area of 114 acres.

The Eastern Telegraph Company has also a large station here, as it is one of the most important on the way to the East, the cable messages being conveyed by land-lines from Alexandria.

The harbour and anchorage are entirely under the control of the Egyptian Government. A large scheme of dredging and wharves has been in course of formation, but unhappily a dispute with the contractors has brought matters for the present to a standstill.

The statistics for the trade of Suez for the year 1923 show a diminution on those for the year 1922, but as far as passengers go this can be accounted for by the dispute between the Hejaz Government and the Egyptian Government, which resulted in a very considerable reduction in the pilgrim traffic.

Suez.	1922.	1923.
Steamers entered and left	852 ...	726
Cargo loaded and landed (tons)	798,615 ...	584,615
Passengers loaded and landed	18,590 ...	17,918

What bids fair to do the most for the revival of the prosperity of Suez is the large oil refinery which has been erected. This means that the crude oil from the Egyptian oil fields of Hurghada and Gemsah can be brought there and treated on the spot, so that all the by-products, lubricating oil, wax, etc., do not have to pay Canal dues, but can be distributed throughout Egypt direct. The residue of fuel oil is, of course, used for the steamers that require it at Suez, and large quantities are consumed in the country by the various pumping plants, etc., which find it a more economical heat producer than coal.

The amount of oil produced in Egypt, however, is by no means adequate to the needs of the country, and so large quantities are brought from foreign fields to the Suez refinery to be treated there, the approximate figures for 1923 being 300,000 tons of foreign oil and 200,000 tons of Egyptian oil.

The company employ on the oil fields about seven hundred hands, and at the refinery about 1,300, 90 per cent. of whom are Egyptians, so on that score alone the country is benefiting largely. But it is on the financial side, quite apart from general trade and Customs receipts, that the Egyptian Government is scoring heavily to an amount which many countries might well envy. The total capital of the company is at present £1,800,000, and by agreement 100,000 shares were given to the Government free of all cost. Up to date they have received £136,000 in dividends, and also benefited in other ways, such as cost of licences, royalties, etc., to a total amount of over £250,000, exclusive of the capital value of the shares.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

A few additional facts regarding the Suez Canal will be of interest in connection with the foregoing articles on Port Said and Suez. Ships are now allowed to pass through the Canal with a maximum draught of 32 ft., but steps are being taken to provide a uniform depth of water of 15 metres (42 ft. 8 in.), which will allow for the passage of ships with a draught up to 35 ft. or even 36 ft. In view of the possible presence of sand to a thickness of one metre on the Canal bed, the margin thus allowed between ship keel and the useful depth of the Canal would be 4 ft. 5 in., which is considered not to be excessive for the normal speed of ten kilometres per hour. Apart, therefore, from the eight largest ships specially constructed for high-speed passenger traffic between Europe and North America, the Suez Canal to-day can be navigated by any ship afloat. In this connection it may be noted that it has long been the policy of the Company to keep improvements in the Canal well ahead of actual requirements. In 1922 only five ships of more than 16,000 tons used the waterway, and the number of passages with more than a 29-ft. draught was only twenty-nine. The largest ship that has used it so far is the America of 22,632 tons gross, with a draught of 30 ft. Yet the Canal has been steadily deepened, and the programme of improvement works will soon place it in the matter of draught in a position equal, or even superior, to the Panama Canal.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Coming Budget.

In a little more than a week we shall know the best or the worst of Mr. Churchill's first Budget. The setting for what will doubtless be a dramatic act is certainly none too promising. The Government has failed to curtail expenditure to an adequate extent, with the result that the margin for possible reductions of taxation is pitifully small. Then the trade depression continues, and very evidently is being felt to an increasing extent by certain industries. In the circumstances one might well look for a humdrum Budget with one or two concessions which please no one, but not with Mr. Churchill as Chancellor. Whatever qualities he lacks, it could never be said of him that he is wanting in imagination, and it may be taken for granted that he will endeavour to make his Budget a memorable one in the annals of post-war finance. If he makes a real success of the task—and that implies substantial relief to the hard-hit income-tax payer—and is able (which is equally important) to hold out decided hopes as to the continuance of concessions during coming Budgets, he will be assured of unbounded popularity. In view of the incidence of the debt services, it is clear that there is a fairly high level below which it would be futile to expect the income-tax to fall, not merely in a decade but for several generations. Opinions will differ as to that level, but it is worth noting that an authoritative contemporary expresses the view that a 3s. income-tax is the best that can be looked for at the end of ten years. It will probably be found that it will take a very long time to fall below that figure.

Oil and the Coal Crisis.

The serious position which has developed in regard to the coal industry in this country is generally put down to the incidence of high prices combined with the trade depression. But while these factors have had much to do with it, I am surprised that more attention has not been directed to the increasing use of oil all over the world, which seems to me the real crux of the situation. That and the growing utilisation of water-power for the production of electricity by countries such as Italy, mean that the market for coal in the future will tend to be more and more circumscribed. The fact is, and it must be recognised, that the conditions which have given this country in its coal industry a unique advantage over its rivals, have materially altered. Incidentally, it is a fortunate circumstance from our point of view, now that another fuel is replacing coal, that it is at present as incumbent on our rivals to go far afield for oil as it is for us. If one excepts Russia and Roumania, none of the leading countries on the Continent has an important oilfield, whatever the future may have in store, and it is an interesting commentary on conditions in Roumania that that country, with limitless supplies of the fuel of the future at her disposal, should have made such poor progress in reconstruction.

Egyptian Tribute Loan.

The announcement is made by Messrs. Rothschild and Sons that the interest coupons falling due this month on the Ottoman Loans of 1891 and 1894, secured on the Egyptian tribute, will not be paid, no further sums having been received for the service of the loan. It was in July last that the Egyptian Government announced its intention to suspend payment of the sums required for the service of the loan. The point of view that Egypt takes is that as no tribute is now payable to Turkey the liability to carry out this obligation lapses. It is a poor argument to bolster up a step which may not incorrectly be regarded as nothing more nor less than a political gesture. Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons last week that the Government has explicitly rejected the claim of the Egyptian Government that they are not bound to continue the service of the loans, and the long-suffering bondholders will look for more forcible representations if no settlement is reached.

The Egyptian Market.

I referred last week to Mr. Davies Bryan's comments at the meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt regarding competition in the Egyptian market. As my readers will remember what he had to say was far from flattering from the point of view of British enterprise and energy. Mr. Bryan subsequently instanced some of the factors that operate to the detriment of British trade in Egypt, and the subject is of such outstanding importance that it is worth while giving a list of some of them. They are (1) unreasoning distrust of British firms already established and known in Egypt who may make applications for agencies, whereas members of other communities are readily welcomed; (2) inadequate support and encouragement of agents; (3) infrequent visits to the country; (4) unwillingness to modify standard patterns to meet market conditions; and (5) unintelligent advertising, or the lack of it. As regards the last factor, Mr. Bryan cites an example of a hoarding on one side of which there is an advertisement in English of a brand of tea and on the other side in Arabic of a well-known whisky. "If this is meant," he said, "to spread the use of these articles among the Egyptians, any housewife could have told the advertiser that tea is becoming a favourite beverage amongst all classes of natives, but the man who drinks whisky can read Roman characters."

COMMENTATOR.

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COTTON-GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Steady Increase in Production Expected.

By W. H. HIMBURY.*

The primary object of my visit to Iraq was in order that as much first-hand knowledge as possible should be obtained as to the general conditions under which cotton is grown in that territory, the conditions of living, staff quarters, construction of the new ginnery, general lay-out of the plant, storage accommodation for seed-cotton, bales, etc., and the prospects for the future.

I left Manchester on January 6, and London on the following day, catching the Simplon Express from Paris, and arriving at Trieste on the 8th. I left Trieste in the s.s. Helouan on the 9th for Alexandria, reaching there on the 12th. I proceeded from there by train via Kantara, caught the express for Jerusalem, and then on to Haifa by train. The journey by motor-car then commenced, first from Haifa to Beyrout, a distance of 100 miles, skirting the sea coast. Heavy rains, however, had made the roads practically impassable, and the bumping was terrific. The cars are Dodge's make, high horse-power, and quite good. Beyrout is a large place with a population of 170,000. I left Beyrout on January 16 at 5.0 a.m. for Baghdad, via Damascus, a rather arduous journey of 635 miles. We reached Palmyra at 5.0 p.m. A fortnight previously there had been a very heavy fall of snow in the desert, and travelling was none too pleasant; in fact, it was extremely cold, and, as can be imagined, the road was extremely bumpy. We journeyed on through the night, making a short stay at Hit for breakfast, and eventually reached Baghdad at 5.0 p.m. on Saturday evening, January 17.

A full fortnight was spent in Mesopotamia, visits being paid to Rustam, Ctesiphon, Baqubah, Mahrut, Balad-Ruz, Hindieh, Hillah, Ur, Nasariyah, and then down to Basrah. On the return journey from Basrah to Baghdad Karbalah and other centres were visited.

The Political Factor.

With the exception of India and the mandated territory of Tanganyika, all the places where the Association is actively engaged are Crown Colonies or Protectorates under the Colonial Office, and, therefore, the political factor scarcely comes under consideration. Iraq is in a different category, and I am inclined to think, after my short visit, that the political factor is one of the most important questions affecting not only cotton-growing, but the general economic development of the country. The present form of government of Iraq is that of an independent State in treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Arab is predominant, although not united, as there are two of the most important sects bitterly opposed to each other in the Shiahs and Sunnis; there are also Jews and Christians embracing many nationalities. In the Cabinet various departments of State are represented by a Minister, and the Jews are well represented, the Minister of Finance being an exceedingly able man. They have, however, at the moment British advisers, although at the time of my visit there were several vacancies, which is exceedingly unfortunate. In young countries when there is a lack of knowledge of government it is of the greatest importance that the authorities should be advised by the very best men it is possible to obtain, and the expense, I am convinced, should not be the first consideration, always provided the right man can be procured. An Adviser to the Ministry of Finance is urgently required, and I consider this post second in importance at the moment to that of the High Commissioner, for, unless something is done to get the finances of the country on a sound basis so that capital for development may be attracted from outside, chaos will result. What is wanted here is a man like Colonel Schuster in the Sudan, and the sooner such a man is found the better. Poverty is the bugbear in most departments in Iraq, and only a period of prosperity untroubled by the hectic political atmosphere will bring about any desired improvement. Since my return it is interesting to note that a Financial Commission consisting of Lieutenant-Commander Hilton Young, D.S.O., M.P., and Mr. R. V. Vernon, C.B., of the Colonial Office, has been appointed to confer with the Government of Iraq on questions of public finance, and to advise the Iraq Government and His Majesty's Government what steps should be taken to balance the Iraq Budget, having regard to the financial commitments of Iraq. Another appointment of little less urgency is an Irrigation Expert, and, if possible, this should be a man having experience of soils, as, owing to the salting, the drainage question is as vital as irrigation. If a first-class man with general knowledge of both could be found—and in this connection I understand that the Iraq Government, in consultation with the British Government, are doing their best to find such a man—his services could not be better utilised anywhere.

The Climate.

The climate of Iraq is pretty well defined—a cold season which coincides with our winter and a hot season. This year the cold has been extreme, and snow has fallen quite heavily on several occasions in the desert. During the week I travelled between Baghdad and Basrah the temperature registered on three mornings in the saloon at 8.0 a.m. was 25 degrees, 26 degrees, and 28 degrees. On the other hand, in the very hot weather it is 125 degrees—which shows a variation of 100 degrees, and makes the living rather trying for those who have to spend the entire year there. The rainfall varies from 6½ inches to 13 inches, and generally commences early in February; only one small shower was experienced during my fortnight's stay. The planting of the cotton commences during March after the first flush of rains, and is continued for several weeks, and in some parts rain plays a very important part in the production of cotton and other crops. I visited most of the cotton-growing areas, and, whilst there was no cotton standing, I was able to gain a great deal of information and see much of the conditions under which cotton is pro-

* A report presented to the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, by Mr. W. H. Himbury, General Manager of the Association, giving details of his recent visit to Iraq.

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duced. I was much surprised at the vast areas showing salt, and it seems a question as to whether irrigation was not stopped owing to this. The Yusifiyah and Saqlawiyah Canals have only been opened about five years. They were intended to irrigate land for growing fodder for the army. The late Alderman Crapper and Mr. Hodgkinson gave me a good deal of information about these canals on their return from their visit to Mesopotamia in 1920. Cotton is being grown there, and, whilst I have not the exact figures, I was assured the production has decreased 50 per cent., so much so that it does not pay to grow cotton now. On investigation it has been proved that water can be found a few feet down, and on boring some 30 feet a blanket of clay is found, which, of course, fully accounts for the water-logging of the land, and if these canals are ever to be fully utilised drainage must be undertaken. I do not think any great extension of irrigation works would serve in this area for long unless it was accompanied by the necessary drainage, and, furthermore, I do not consider the cotton possibilities are important south of Hillah. Around Baghdad, north and north-west the prospects for cotton are more encouraging, and I was very much impressed with the appearance of the land irrigated by canals from the River Diala, especially the area belonging to the new syndicate now being prepared by Mr. Thomas. It was an excellent black soil, and as the land had a slight slope it provided natural drainage. Here I saw no evidence of salt. The difficulty I foresee, however, is that new land is being brought under cultivation, and, according to reports made to me, there is only sufficient water with which to supply the present tenants for the crops they already grow, *i.e.*, wheat, sesame, rice, cotton, etc. Of course, their new irrigation scheme when materialised will eventually provide much more water; I am referring to the facilities now present. Mr. Crapper alludes to this situation in his report as follows :—

> We next visited the Diala Valley, north-east of Baghdad, the river being a tributary of the Tigris. We stayed at the town of Bakhuba. There are many canals taking off from the river in the higher reaches capable of irrigating about 200,000 acres of land, but the supply of water for the canals depends entirely on a temporary earthen bund which is made across the river by the resident cultivators each year, and which is washed away by the late floods about on an average once in every three years, and on this account the land put under crop is very small.

The position is the same to-day as it was when he and Mr. Hodgkinson paid their visit.

With regard to insect pests these are not very important at the moment. The chief pest in the cotton crop is the spotted boll worm, and I believe its depredations are worse and the plants not so robust as they should be in areas where the land is salted. Another enemy to crops is the locust. This pest, however, keeps pretty well north near the Mosul area, where large grain crops are grown, and so far has not affected cotton to any serious degree. It is a pest which has to be dealt with, and the agricultural authorities have a special mission under a European officer engaged in destroying the eggs and doing all possible to prevent the beasts from spreading and doing further depredations.

Labour and Transport Facilities.

With regard to the question of population, I am afraid this is a somewhat difficult problem. It is approximately three millions, and a large proportion consists of nomadic Arabs. The wealth of the Arab consists in his sheep, goats, and camels—they provide for all his needs. There may be no doubt that large numbers have settled recently on the land and a great deal of cultivation has been done, but it is doubtful if any really big thing could be accomplished quickly. Good sound government and crops which will show a good return for the labour expended will undoubtedly bring progress, but patience must be exercised. It has been suggested that labour should be imported from India and Egypt, but I do not consider the idea feasible. On the other hand, I see no reason why under existing conditions the population should not increase, and this would be better for the country in the long run than the importation of aliens.

As regards transport, Iraq can boast of quite good transport. The Tigris allows of steamer service between Basrah and beyond Baghdad; there are also barges and Arab craft on this and the Euphrates. There is also the railway system—one line built by the Turks and one by the British, hence two gauges—standard and metre. The metre gauge predominates and runs to Basrah. It is a well-laid track, and an express train does the journey in twenty-one hours—a distance of about 350 miles. There are several branch lines to Masariyah, etc., one recently constructed being to Kerbala for pilgrim traffic. The line north runs from Baghdad to Shargat, 65 miles south of Mosul, a cul-de-sac from which there is no outlet. This is of standard gauge, and is really of little use. I am told it is being pulled up, and a line of metre gauge constructed, progressing through Kifri Kirkuk from growing country to the great granary of North-East and West Mosul. The railway systems were at the end of the war valued at three millions sterling; this was, of course, in "boom" times, and it is probably now only worth one million. The present organisation is excellent, and one notices a refreshing amount of business acumen in the management. At the present time a profit is being made, which is spent in carrying out extensions and improvements, but unless the line is given financial assistance I cannot see how it is going to run and pay for depreciation, to say nothing of extensions. Mesopotamia is also blessed by an abundance of camels and donkeys, which are invaluable for transport across long distances of arid country where mechanical means would scarcely pay. Then there is the advent of the motor service between Beyrout and Baghdad, 650 miles. It is new, and much has to be done, but it is a most interesting scheme, bringing Baghdad within reach of London in ten days. In time this service will be vastly improved, and perhaps prove the forerunner of a railway. Therefore I see no difficulty in the transport question, provided the railway can keep running.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25.22½	275–280
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	295–298
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.73–24.75
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{23}{32}$-1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.75–94.85
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,025–1,035
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344–347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{23}{32}$-1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	915–930
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.77¾-⅞
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	92.40–92.50
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161⅛-161⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116 60-.70
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653-660
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.90-34.00
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.75-24.90

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Future Prospects.

I have seen practically all the areas from which we get cotton, the figures for the season as made up to the end of December being as follows :—

	Seed Cotton.
Baghdad	1,119,020 lbs.
Yusuf	364,569 lbs.
Fallujah	335,266 lbs.
Hillah	189,539 lbs.
Baqubah	958,971 lbs.
	2,967,365 lbs.
Clients	339,652 lbs.

I quite expect these figures will be increased before the season ends, as we are still buying, and some growers are holding back thinking higher prices may result. I think the crop will exceed 2,500 bales, which shows quite good progress upon that of last year. As to the future, I am convinced that we have established our work on sound foundations, and whether the operations of the new syndicate are a success or not I look for a steady increase in the production of cotton from Iraqui growers. That the progress will be slow goes without saying owing to the lack of drainage, irrigation, and shortage of population. I must unhesitatingly say that the B.C.G.A., by looking after the distribution of seed, paying as high a price as possible for the seed cotton, etc., can claim credit for the bulk of the progress so far made. We have won the confidence of the farmers, and, although I am against duplicating work or doing what others are willing to do for you, I feel the new syndicate's immediate operations are outside of our sphere. Furthermore, I am convinced their progress will be difficult and slow; therefore I consider the B.C.G.A. should continue its work for the time being and watch events. By doing this we shall, I feel sure, continue to show progress, and possibly be of some assistance to any new capital invested for cotton-growing in Iraq.

Where progress has shown evidence of expansion the Association has always been ahead of its programme with the necessary ginning facilities, and last year a large up-to-date pneumatic saw-ginning plant, together with a standard hydraulic press, was despatched to Baghdad. This plant has been completed in good time, and is dealing with the present season's crop. The work of erection has been carried out in a thoroughly workmanlike and expeditious manner, and much credit is due for this to Mr. F. Feber, the engineer-in-charge. I should also like to give my tribute of appreciation to Mr. Austin Eastwood, our manager at Baghdad, and the other members of the staff for the good work they have done.

Whilst at Baghdad I had the pleasure of meeting H.H. King Feisul, who evinced keen interest in our work, and expressed his appreciation of what the Association had done. I also had interviews with the High Commissioner, Sir Henry R. C. Dobbs, the Director of Railways, Lt.-Col. J. R. Tainsh, C.B.E., Col. K. C. Cornwallis, Adviser to the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Anwar Khayatt, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. J. F. Webster, the officiating Inspector-General of Agriculture, and most of the other principal officials, and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to them for their courtesy shown to me whilst there.

Palestine's Poor Prospects.

Whilst in the neighbourhood I took the opportunity of making a brief survey of the cotton-producing areas, but regret that I have come to the conclusion that the prospects for cotton in this country are practically nil. A very large part is arid, and if irrigation were supplied there is no labour. That the country needs to produce something for export is generally acknowledged, but I am afraid it will not be cotton or any other crop which requires a large amount of field work. The principal article of export is oranges, the value of which recently reached nearly one million sterling. This trade should improve. It may also be possible to grow sugar, but both crops are limited to the population available.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Rather Better Tone.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended April 8 :—

Egyptian Spot.—A better tone was in evidence at the commencement of the week; prices hardened slightly, and for a time it looked as if the trade was about to come in and buy. Any such hopes were soon dispelled, however, by further renewed weakness in the future markets, and the demand for spot cotton faded once again to insignificant proportions. These repeated fluctuations have had a most unsettling effect on trade, and prices have become very irregular. Reports from Manchester have shown a slight improvement during the past few days, but there is no weight of business apparent as yet. Most buyers, in fact, are standing aside until after the Easter holiday, when it is to be hoped some improvement will be felt.

Very little inquiry for Sakellaridis has been noticeable. A few odd lots changed hands at about 650 on contracts, a price which produced only a very indifferent selection to choose from. Apart from this, the inquiry seems to have been confined almost entirely to cotton below Good Fair. This untenderable cotton has again hardened in price as compared with the better qualities. Consumption of Sakel of any kind appears at the moment to have been reduced to an absolute minimum. Choice lots of Tokar Sakel and Sudan Sakel have been in fair request in certain quarters, but only a small business has resulted. Prices asked for the best cotton vary from 37d. to 39d.

Uppers have suffered from the general absence of trade, but holders have held out against the decline. The best cotton is actually quoted 40 points higher on the week; other grades unchanged. Business in other growths has been so small as to be negligible. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 3rd instant were returned as 9,504 bales. Estimated sales, 1,400 bales Egyptians and 400 Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are reduced 85 points (Fair unchanged). Uppers are 40 points higher for Fine and Extra Fine; other grades unchanged. Fine and Extra Fine Brown are advanced 15 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 31.65d.

STOWAGE STATISTICS.

The need has long been felt for a compact little guide giving details of the room that will be occupied by various commodities on board ship. A little brochure, compiled by Commander G. P. Lewis, O.B.E., has now been issued, giving the cubic space required for the stowage of general merchandise, and other information for the use of shipowners, shipmasters, etc. The figures given in the book have been compiled from measurements taken after the goods were actually stowed on vessels, and are mostly based on actual experience during twenty years in the mercantile marine. The information contained in the book is of the most comprehensive character, and is presented in a form which facilitates ready reference, and it is emphatically a work that should be in the hands of all who have to do with shipping.

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THE CYPRUS PAVILION AT WEMBLEY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Last year the Cyprus Section formed part of the Palestine-Cyprus Pavilion. The accommodation available was found inadequate, and the design of the Cyprus portion of the building still further limited the space available for the display of exhibits, owing to the existence of three entrances and several massive pillars. The gangways are necessarily narrow, and visitors were inconveniently crowded and unable to examine in comfort the various articles displayed. The office accommodation for the staff was very cramped, and the Exhibition Commissioner himself had to conduct his business from an office in town.

When it was decided to reopen the Exhibition in 1925 it was at once determined either to enlarge the Cyprus Section or seek some new building. The Fiji Government having withdrawn from participation in 1925, their pavilion fell vacant, and Cyprus will this year be housed in this pavilion. The style of the building not being of Cypriot character, certain alterations will be effected with a view to rendering its external appearance more in keeping with the island architecture.

A kiosk has been erected in the grounds for the sale of Cyprus oranges and other fruits, fresh and dried. These oranges are of the Jaffa variety, but of exceptional size and quality. The season will be rather late, but there is no doubt of the favourable impression they will make if they arrive in good condition.

It is desired to impart to the Pavilion, both externally and internally, a character wholly different from that which it had in 1924, so that the public who then visited it may this year find a pavilion having an atmosphere reminiscent, not of the remote Pacific, but of the Near East.

The exterior of the pavilion has been designed in Oriental style, with a dome and lattice windows such as are generally seen in the Turkish quarters; while the interior will be divided by plain pointed arches, which are the common feature in the modern houses and cottages of the Greek-speaking population. The glass roof will be shaded with blue and white velarium, which will give a light and effective touch of colour to the interior, and should incidentally meet with the approval of the Hellenic element among the visitors.

The new pavilion is slightly larger than the old, but owing to its design the space available is considerably greater, and it will be possible to display more effectively the beautiful Cyprus fabrics, embroidery, and carpets which were so much admired last year. The 1924 season has evidently been regarded as sufficiently satisfactory to induce new applications for floor space—although at the time of writing a list of all prospective exhibitors has not been received from Cyprus.

Among the interesting exhibits—which will also be on sale—will be the delicate Lefkara lace which is now becoming much sought after; lambskins and kid-skins, which attracted special attention last year: bottled fruits, cigarettes, wines, spirits, and liqueurs, and Turkish delight (lacoum), which is generally considered the best in the market. Cyprus brandy, which is a pure product of the vine, has for many years had an established reputation, while in price it compares favourably with any other, and should find a good sale. Certain Cyprus liqueurs flavoured with orange, mandarin, etc., are particularly delicious. These and much else will be seen at the pavilion.

It is intended to utilise the good lawn space surrounding the pavilion as a quiet spot where visitors can rest in Cyprus-made (Lapithos) chairs. Here it will be possible to obtain some quite light refreshments "*à la Chypriote*," such as Turkish coffee prepared in native fashion, non-alcoholic beverages, Turkish delight, various sweetmeats, ground-nuts, cigarettes, etc.

The Cyprus section being close to the Government pavilion and to Quality Street, it is expected that it will receive a large number of visitors in 1925.

LORD READING'S RETURN.

The P. and O. Company's new steamer Razmak, 10,600 tons, which arrived in Bombay on April 3, and has been specially detailed as an extra sailing to bring home the Viceroy, Lady Reading, and suite, left Bombay at 5 p.m. on April 10. The Razmak is timed to reach Marseilles on April 22 at noon, and the P. and O. special, running as an extra train, will be in waiting to convey the party and other passengers to London. In the ordinary course they should reach Victoria at 7.15 p.m. on April 23.

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. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 24); s.s. Manva for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 25).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunedin for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 24).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, May 1); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Johnstone Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 2); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, April 18).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDA, April 28. *CIRCASSIA, June 12.
*ELYSIA, May 29. *OLYMPIA, June 26.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
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PRAGUE SAMPLE FAIR.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

At the tenth international Prague Sample Fair thirty-seven countries were represented, of which twenty-two were European countries and fifteen from overseas. The presence of a great number of buyers from Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Bulgaria is a very good omen from the economic and political point of view. It shows that Prague is becoming the centre of commercial interest of the so-called Succession States and the Slavonic countries. England's participation in the Prague Sample Fair enables the British manufacturers to get in touch with many thousands of buyers from the above-named countries.

The commercial result of the Fair was very satisfactory, and in many branches even surprisingly successful. Owing to the shortage of houses in various countries, the building branch of the Fair proved to be of great interest to inland as well as foreign merchants. Building material, furniture, and household goods had a very ready market. The radio and wireless apparatus branch also completed considerable commercial transactions, and so did the musical instruments and especially pianos branch. Pianos were mainly sold to Roumania, Greece, Brazil, and Poland. France, Dutch colonies, and Italy were interested in buying artificial marble and wood-working machinery.

Sheet glass and watch glass had also a very good market. Crystal and polished glass were sold to France, China, Russia, Japan, and Great Britain. Trade in the famous Gablonz ware, as well as in textile goods, carpets, embroidery, head-wear, enamel, etc., was also very active.

THE WORK OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

In the discussion on the financial resolution in connection with the Imperial Institute Bill, which took place in the House of Commons on March 30, it was stated by a member that little appeared to have been heard of the actual work of the Institute. In this connection attention may be drawn to the principal publication of the Institute—viz., its quarterly bulletin, which has now reached its twenty-third year of issue. Each number of this quarterly contains results of investigations conducted in the laboratories of the Institute, articles and notes on the production and utilisation of colonial and other raw materials, a summary of recent progress in agriculture and the development of natural resources, and notices of recent books dealing with such subjects.

In the number of the bulletin just issued (Vol. XXIII., No. 1) a new feature has been introduced consisting of a classified bibliography relating to colonial development and resources. This section should prove of great value to workers overseas by drawing their attention to the most recent information contained in publications from all parts of the world. The investigations at the Institute recorded in the current issue include the examination of the berries of a South African tree which yield an oil shown to be suitable for soap-making; the determination of the properties of Balsa wood from British Honduras and monkey apple timber from Sierra Leone and a study of their possible uses; and an investigation of certain British Honduras woods as paper-making materials.

A third instalment of an article on the possibilities of cement manufacture in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates contains incidentally the results of examination at the Institute of various cement-making materials from Trinidad, the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Fiji. An article giving an account of the henequen or Mexican sisal hemp industry of Yucatan should prove of interest to planters in Kenya, Tanganyika, and other parts of the British Empire where the production of sisal hemp is of increasing importance.

EGYPT AS A TOBACCO MARKET.

The cigarette manufacturing industry of Egypt consumes very large quantities of imported tobacco each year. Before the war the imports totalled about 19,000,000 lbs., but since the war the imports have been considerably less, amounting last year to about 15,000,000 lbs.

This gradual decline in the imports of the raw product (says an American Consular report) is reflected directly in the volume of cigarette exports, which before the war averaged more than a million pounds a year, and dropped in 1921 to 877,000 lbs., in 1922 to 779,000 lbs., in 1923 to 414,000 lbs., and during eleven months of 1924 to less than 300,000 lbs. Two underlying reasons may be assigned for this decrease in the Egyptian cigarette export trade. The United States and many European countries which before the war were large consumers of Egyptian cigarettes have levied increased Customs duties on imported cigarettes. Moreover, Egypt has changed its local manufacture of cigarettes from a hand industry to a machine industry, thereby robbing it of a certain uniqueness enjoyed when Egypt's exports of cigarettes ranked second only to its exports of cotton.

In contrast with the heavy decline in the cigarette exports of Egypt there has been an increase in the domestic consumption. It is estimated that the local industries are using approximately 85 per cent. as much leaf tobacco to-day as they did ten or twelve years ago, practically all of which is prepared for local consumption, whereas only a small amount was consumed locally before the war. Furthermore, Egypt's imports of foreign cigarettes have increased from 139,000 lbs. in 1913 to 351,000 lbs. in 1923, and to 300,000 lbs. in eleven months of 1924. Increasing prosperity, which has put the manufactured cigarette within the reach of even the poorest fellaheen, and intensive advertising have been strong contributory factors in the increased domestic consumption.

Before the war Egypt imported its supply of raw leaf from Turkey, Greece, Russia, and Austria-Hungary, named in the order of their importance. Since 1920 Greece, China, Russia, and Turkey have furnished fully 90 per cent. of the supply, with Greece occupying the first place instead of second, China taking the position which Greece maintained in 1909-1913, and Turkey standing last instead of first. The share of the United States in Egypt's imports of leaf tobacco is infinitesimal, never even approximating 1 per cent. of the total, but the wide range of countries from which Egypt does import tobacco should be an indication that the Egyptian market is not restricted to any one type, grade, or quality, and that there should be great possibilities for developing a larger market for American types.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Although the quality and aroma of the reputed Egyptian cigarette of pre-war times are quite different from most American brands, it is equally true that since the war the market for distinctly Egyptian cigarettes has become less and less important. Indeed, the Egyptian manufacturers' and consumers' market as well has changed from an established quality market to a price market, where competition is extremely keen and where blend is more or less secondary to price.

Leaf tobacco to supply present-day requirements of the Egyptian cigarette industry may be divided into three groups, according to the type and grade of cigarettes manufactured. The first is of extra good quality, prepared almost exclusively for export and constituting the continuation of the old pre-War grade and type known for its exceptional aroma and flavour. The demand for this type is light, accounting for but 5 per cent. of the consumption, and the leaf is supplied by Turkey, Russia, and certain sections of Greece. The second group, represented by the second-grade cigarette, accounts for a larger consumption. It supplies the domestic demand, and is of some small export importance. The third group, consisting of the lowest quality of Egyptian manufactured cigarette, represents about 75 per cent. of the leaf consumption, and is made principally of low-grade Greek, Chinese, and Japanese tobaccos.

Colour is an important item in the Egyptian market for leaf tobacco intended for cigarettes, as colour has a special significance in the determination of blends. Red, light red, yellow, and pale are the most common varieties.

The United Kingdom predominates decidedly in supplying the Egyptian imports of manufactured pipe, cigarette, and chewing tobacco. About 22,000 kilos are imported yearly, and the United Kingdom furnishes fully 90 per cent.

Since the Egyptian Government obtains a revenue of about £E5,000,000 or £E6,000,000 annually from tobacco import dues, and as such dues are assessed when tobacco is withdrawn from the customs or bonded warehouse stores, it is customary for tobacco manufacturers to leave their stocks in the tobacco stores until actually desired for immediate consumption. These import dues amount to 80 Turkish piastres per kilo for unstemmed and unstripped leaf tobacco when accompanied by a certificate indicating the country of origin. When such a certificate does not accompany the imported article the duty is 82 Turkish piastres per kilo. Stemmed or stripped leaf tobacco is assessed an import duty of 90 and 92 Turkish piastres per kilo. Tobacco manufacturers are allowed an export drawback of 60 Turkish piastres per kilo.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended April 2, state :—

Futures.—Since our last report the futures market has been very active but rather weak; the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $6.30 down for May, $6.25 down for July, $2.90 down for November, $2.90 down for January. Ashmouni : $2.47 down for April, $2 down for June, $1.47 down for October.

The very high prices touched during the second fortnight of March resulted in stopping the demand almost completely. . . . On the spot market prices have followed more or less the fluctuations of Futures excepting for the lower grades, which, being in general unhedged and firmly held, have not fully followed the drop. Egyptians in Liverpool have followed the Alexandria fluctuations. New crop deliveries have displayed a rather firmer tone, but we do not think that the present level of prices can be maintained whilst spinners' interest in these options is so small. The week's receipts amount to 74,196 krs., against exports 200,296 krs. ; the stock stands at 1,242,344 krs.

Spot.—We have had once more at Minet el Bassal a week of small markets and restricted demand from spinners. Sales amount to about 7,700 B/s, of which we estimate 3,300 B/s Sakel, 3,500 B/s Uppers, 600 B/s Zagora, 200 B/s Pilion, and 100 B/s White.

Sakellarides.—A moderate business has been done. The medium and lower qualities have again absorbed the bulk of the demand, though there has been business in the better grades on a limited scale. Spot differences are without much change from last week for Fully Good Fair and better; for Good Fair they are somewhat stiffer, whilst for the grades below Good Fair they are distinctly dearer as these qualities have not followed the decline in contracts.

Ashmouni and Zagora.—Rather more business has been done this week, but the demand is still only moderate. All styles have been dealt in. Spot parities are without much change from last week excepting Fully Fair and below, which are rather dearer. Sellers are not meeting the market so readily as last week, the decline having caused a few holders to withdraw their cotton for the time being.

Pilion.—A small business has been done at about last week's spot differences.

Brown is neglected, and no business has been reported. Spot differences are quoted at last week's rates except for Fully Fair, which has hardened somewhat.

White.—A small business has been done. Spot differences are generally very much dearer.

Crop 1925.—Occasional climatic disturbances have occurred but have not been of great consequence to the growing crop. Germination and the state of the crop are everywhere normal. The Nile gauges are practically identical to last year.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Passenger Engines.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of thirty five 4-4-2 type express passenger engines and tenders. May 16.

Paper, etc.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza Mudiriya, invites tenders for the supply of paper and chemicals for photostat for 1925-26. June 10.

Paper.—The Survey of Egypt, Ministry of Finance, invites tenders for the supply of 100 reams of machine-made ledger paper, size 30½ in. by 40½ in., and 400 reams of similar paper size 22½ in. by 36½ in.—June 16.

Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machinery for floating dock required for the Government Workshops, Bulâq. July 1.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for ten days ended March 20 amounted to £E8,488, making the total for the year to date £E346,502.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended March 14 amounted to Rs.9,70,683, making the total for the year to date Rs.4,68,57,310.

WANTED.

HAIR of every description wanted. Cow body hair, cow tail hair, horse hair. Send samples and prices—M. JAFFE, 21 & 23 Brasenose Road, Bankhall, Liverpool.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

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Central Office:
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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.67.50.000

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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ESTABLISHED 1893

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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
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Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
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TELEPHONE—626

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RAZMAK	10,600	—	Apr. 28	Bombay & Karachi
§CORINTH	15,000	Apr. 21	—	Colombo & Australia
*MALWA	11,000	Apr. 24	May 1	Straits, China, Japan
NARKUNDA	16,000	May 1	May 8	Bombay & Karachi
*MALVIA	21,000	May 8	May 15	Bombay & Karachi
CALEDONIA	8,000	May 15	May 22	Bombay & Karachi
*MANTUA	11,000	May 22	May 29	Bombay & Karachi

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‡MANDALA	8,246	—	Apr. 24	Bombay & Karachi
‖MANORA	7,898		Apr. 25	Col., Madras, Calcutta
§¶NIRVANA	6,021	Apr. 22	May 9	Bombay & Karachi
MANTOLA	8,963	May 2	May 9	Col., Madras, Calcutta
MERKARA	8,234	May 2	May 14	East African Ports
DOMALA	8,441	May 2	May 2	Bombay & Karachi
§¶DURENDA	7,241	May 6	May 23	Col., Madras, Calcutta

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THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 728—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Bulgarian Outrages.

The dastardly crime in Sofia which has taken toll of a hundred and fifty lives, including those of women and children, should give pause to those who have hitherto adopted an attitude of hostility or aloofness towards Bulgaria on the ground that during the War she made her own bed and must now lie on it. There can no longer be any justification for such an attitude when it is seen that the trouble in which Bulgaria is involved will, unless scotched in time, inevitably spread beyond her borders. At the present moment the country is serving as the spearhead of Bolshevist intrigue in Europe. There are, it is true, other causes at work; but one and all dovetail into the scheme of discord that the Soviet authorities contrive to keep alive with the help of a handful of desperate Bulgarians. Cold-shouldered abroad, the Tsankoff Government has been unequal to its task at home, and the question that has now to be answered by Bulgaria's neighbours and the Great Allied Powers is whether it is to any country's interest, except Russia's, that Bulgaria should be allowed to drift into anarchy. If it is not, then it is high time that the requests that she puts forward for a modification of the obligations imposed by the Treaty of Neuilly should be considered in the light of common sense and not summarily dismissed on the strength of the veto of a neighbouring State.

Proximus Ardet.

It hardly admits of challenge that there must be something wrong in the conditions of a country when bandits can operate with impunity within twenty miles of the capital. Such a state of affairs may point to inefficient administration; but despair and a sense of injustice can quite well cause a nation to lose its grip of things, as they do so often in the case of an individual. This would seem to have happened to the Bulgarians, with whom thoroughness has long been a prominent characteristic. The Bulgarian Government pleads its inability to keep order with the gendarmerie and military forces allowed it under the Treaty of Neuilly; but, in spite of the obvious inadequacy of these forces, only tardily has a slight increase just been allowed. Bulgaria is surrounded by countries which could put half a million of men in the field at the shortest notice; but Europe is asked to believe that an increase in the number of Bulgarian troops with the colours from thirty to forty thousand, the scrapping of the unworkable volunteer system of enlistment, and an additional thousand gendarmerie would constitute a grave menace to the peace of the Continent. Hand in hand with these penalties go onerous economic burdens which have a direct bearing on the unrest in the country. It is not urged that the Bulgarians are saints, or that they might not have made a better showing, if they had been so minded and had had the ability; but in the light of what has actually happened, it would seem to be the height of folly for the Allied Powers to look on without moving a finger while Bulgaria continues to collect explosive material which may one day wreck the peace of the Balkans or possibly a wider area.

Turkey and the Kurds.

The Kurdish revolt has ended abruptly with the capture of Sheikh Said and several other chieftains. This sudden collapse may be regarded as a tribute to the thoroughness of the Turkish military plans, but it is likely to raise in Turkey the question of the validity or wisdom of the continuation of the exceptional measures taken by the Government as a means of coping with the situation outside the disaffected area. Sheikh Said is reported to have been found in possession of "important papers and a large sum of money in gold." There is a familiar ring about the words; every insurgent leader or politician in the Near or Middle East who falls into the hands of his opponents seems to make a point of considerately supplying his captors with all the evidence required to substantiate their views of him and his movement. Thus, according to precedent, Sheikh Said's gold will have come from abroad, and his important papers should lead to the undoing of more members of the Parliamentary Opposition. The Turkish Government, however, is capable of better things, and it will be of interest to see whether, now that the genuine uneasiness caused by the Kurdish revolt has been laid to rest, the wisdom of preserving the unity of the country is appreciated. The Tribunal of Independence that has to deal with the captured insurgents must proceed with its task: but it would be thought that

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similar bodies in other parts of the country might with advantage be demobilised at once. Turkey's neighbours have provided her with a very striking object-lesson of the unwisdom of carrying political hostility to a stage at which the country becomes divided over personal grievances rather than over policies. An excellent motto to be hung permanently in the Angora Cabinet Council Chamber, would be: "Other Turks are just as true patriots as we are."

Party or State in Turkey.

It is not of good augury for the future that on the morrow of the collapse of the Kurdish revolt the Angora Government should have arrested in the middle of the night the editor of the Constantinople *Tanin* and had him conveyed to Angora for trial. Hussein Jahid Bey was arrested on the charge of high treason in December, 1923, but was shortly afterwards acquitted. This time he is accused of a breach of the new law for the maintenance of order, on the strength of which his paper was suppressed a few days previously. It may be that he has been guilty of a technical offence against the law, and the order for his arrest will probably have been issued before it was realised in Angora that there was no further room for anxiety in connection with the Kurdish revolt. If this should be the case, it is to be hoped that the Turkish Government will improve the occasion by declaring a political amnesty and by making an effort to bring about an understanding between itself and the Opposition, whose point of view is represented by the *Tanin*. British observers have no reason to be prejudiced in favour of Jahid Bey, as, although recognising the futility of Turkey's adopting an anti-foreign attitude, he has not forgiven Great Britain for his unjustifiable incarceration in Malta; but they recognise in him a genuine Turkish patriot, whose services ought to be available in the constructive work of building up the Turkish Republic.

The Jarabub Hubbub.

The majority of the Egyptian newspapers would seem to have a long way to travel before they are equal to supporting the dignity of an independent nation, if one may judge by their treatment of the frontier question which has once again been raised by Italy. It is not helpful to a Government engaged in negotiations to have every diplomatic Note termed an ultimatum, nor to have every molehill encountered in the conduct of foreign affairs represented as a mountain. The proposed settlement of Egypt's western frontier between the Mediterranean and the Jarabub oasis amounts to little more than a formal ratification of the only practical solution, whereas the Egyptian Press, in order to score a point in party politics, is apparently prepared to see in it a grave diplomatic defeat for Egypt. It is, of course, nothing of the sort. We could have wished that Italy would have consented to postpone the question *sine die*, as it has already been in abeyance for several years, but her anxiety to have the matter settled is at least comprehensible. Equally natural and proper is the Egyptian Government's desire to be spared just now a decision which can be so easily twisted by unscrupulous opponents into a surrender of Egyptian territory. The fact is that the Jarabub oasis to which Italy is anxious to send troops has never been in the actual occupation of Egypt. The frontier in this region has remained undelimited, and in 1921 an agreement was reached between Italy and Great Britain that it would be an equitable settlement if Jarabub went to Italy and Egypt received compensation further north. The Italian Government would like to hold Egypt to this arrangement; but, very naturally, the Egyptian Government, quite apart from the awkwardness of having to make a decision at this particular time, would prefer not to have to take over agreements made by Great Britain, but to negotiate the subject *de novo*. If the matter could be considered dispassionately, it would probably be found that Egypt is being invited to make quite a good bargain for herself, and that it is Italy who stands to lose by untimely insistence which will long rankle in the Egyptian mind.

INDIA.

Lord Reading's Return.

Lord Reading is due in London in a few hours' time, and interest in Indian politics will presently be concentrated in Whitehall. We cannot share the regret expressed by some of our contemporaries at his omission to bring over a few samples of Indian politicians to exhibit to the Secretary of State. The Governor-General probably knows at least as well as anyone else the position now occupied by Mr. Nehru, or Mr. Das, or any other of the protagonists, and he ought to have a very good idea of the changes likely to occur in their attitude during the next few months. It is primarily his business to explain such matters, while if Lord Birkenhead should refuse to accept his interpretation, then all we can say is that the partnership would have to be wound up at once. Nor is the British public anxious to hear anything from the politicians just now. The country remains profoundly disappointed by their performances since the Constitution was promulgated, and it is looking for acts rather than words—acts which can be accomplished only in India. The establishment of a stable Ministry in Bengal would, even now, do more to produce a favourable influence on British opinion than the production of a dozen new draft constitutions.

The Civil Justice Committee.

We wonder whether the ex-Lord Chancellor and the ex-Lord Chief Justice will find time to talk over the report of the Civil Justice Committee, which was distributed in India in the mail-week. The comments of our Indian contemporaries suggest that the Committee has done very much what was expected of it. It has demonstrated that the law courts are in a scandalous condition—a fact which everybody has known for years, and it has prescribed over three hundred pills and lotions for particular symptoms, but we cannot trace any prospect of a cure for the actual disease, the tendency of the Indian Bar to waste time, and the willingness of Indian judges to allow the Bar to do so. If pleaders in the mass worked with an eye on the clock, even to the moderate extent practised in this country, India would need fewer judges than now to get through the business with despatch; but what the layman sees is a sort of conspiracy between bench, bar, and ministerial officials to waste time and make unnecessary work, so long, of course, as litigants will put down the money; and Indian litigants are unfortunately very slow to call a halt.

The Dangers of Acclimatisation.

The fact is that the English legal system is an exotic in India. In this country, where it has grown up, it works tolerably well, but in India it has found an unduly stimulating environment, and has become like rabbits in Australia, or the wild hyacinth in Bengal, a pest which it is exceedingly difficult to control. In the good old days of the Mogul Empire a remedy could easily have been found: a few dozen leaders of the Bar would have had their jaws amputated at the neck, and

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the survivors would have made a serious effort to improve their practice. Such remedies, however, were not available to Mr. Justice Rankin and his colleagues, and the problem remains of propagating a new spirit in the existing institution. That can be done only from the top down, and we adhere to the view we have already expressed that the most hopeful line of attack would be through a Bench of the Judicial Committee sitting periodically in Delhi, setting a good example by its own procedure, and dealing sternly, at short range, with any judges or lawyers who might fall below its standard. There are, of course, efficient courts in India; but they have so far failed to leaven the lump. The course we have suggested would, at any rate, give the leaven a better chance of working.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Foreign Politics.

For a week or so—Mr. Churchill being due to make his Budget proposals known next Tuesday—home politics have had, and will have, little to interest us. If we think about politics at all—and there are, of course, millions whose anxieties do not extend beyond the price of Tapin for the City and Suburban and the chances of Cardiff City in the Cup Final—our attention is on the Continent, where events in France and in Germany are being watched with something like genuine apprehension.

A dark suspicion is creeping over us that there is hanky-panky in these matters; it is not the French nation which seeks out a man like M. Caillaux, nor is it a united Allied Army of Occupation which permits such a swing to the Right as Germany now seems to be enjoying. What, the ordinary man in the street is asking, does it all mean? Who is it really who is putting up the weak Painlevé, the cosmopolitan Caillaux, the enemy Hindenburg? Who is it who is cultivating this talk of the "impossibility" of France, and of the "possibility" of Germany? Certainly no national sentiment is at work here. Let us rub our eyes and keep them open; and, in the meantime, thank Heaven that we have a patriotic Premier, whose hand is not likely to be forced by commercial or financial interests, push they never so hard or insinuatingly.

The R 33.

I am not competent to deal with the technical side of the experience which befel the R 33 last week; in fact, I am dull enough to suppose that neither the triumph nor the failure of the airship has thereby been proved. But much could be written on the human side of this story, which really did move unimaginative men and women. Almost every knot of the ship's homeward journey was followed breathlessly, until at last, in one of its all too few inspired moments, the *Evening News* was able to break out into its consoling and immediately comprehensible poster: "Home!"

For those who, like myself, do not understand the real possibilities of airships, the Air Ministry's reception of this adventure was rather disconcertingly calm. One imagined from its statements that all had gone "according to plan," and the assurance that the R 33 had never been in danger had to our untutored ears the ring of fantasy. Is it really credible that mooring masts cannot be built which can withstand a 60-mile-an-hour gale?

Sargent.

Americans, when we indulge in our time-worn jest that the United States have produced no great artist, can fitly remind us of Sargent, whose death last week was the signal for an outburst of appreciation, mostly deserved, but somewhat indiscriminate. To deny that Sargent was a great painter, an exceedingly accomplished technician, is the privilege of but very few—the Roger Frys of our time. Extreme strength is allied to extreme conviction in his portraits, his panel decoration, his water-colours. His power was ubiquitous.

Much—and a good deal of rubbish—has been written on the revealing nature of his portraits. This praise is due, I think, to an underestimating of the national faculty in getting below the surface of things, or, rather, the faces of individuals. Take, for instance, his portraits of Wertheimer, or of Sir Phillip Sassoon (which was shown in last year's Academy). It is true that he did not miss many of the undesirable qualities, but can it honestly be said that he unduly stressed what was not obvious to anyone of discernment? His power lay, it seems, not so much in his psychological insight, of which one has read so much, but in his immediate seizing of individual characteristics and in his ability to reproduce them absolutely.

His influence is curiously difficult to estimate, for, though he kept his position to the end, the times to some extent had passed him by. In other and quite unreproaching words, he was less an artist than a painter; it was his technical excellence rather than his attitude of mind that others sought to imitate. Perhaps it would be fair to say that he was more a Moussorgsky than a Scriabin.

The "Morning Post."

It has always been accounted a misfortune that our "best" newspaper could not, in these crowded, post-War days, be turned over in the railway carriage without disturbing the ash of the next man's cigar, and that the traversing of the route from Mr. Ian Colvin to Mr. E. B. Osborne was beset with the serious danger of upsetting the equanimity, or the slumbers, of those who were pondering over, say, *The Times* or the *Daily Telegraph*. Now, however, we may flaunt our colours with more gladsome gesture, for the *Morning Post* is in a few days to change its format, reducing the size of its pages but increasing their numbers. One hails the prospect with delight, for one knows that the heart of the paper will be unaltered. After all, Hobbs is no less a batsman than Grace because he wears neither beard nor belt.

For some months now the *Post* has felt the urging call of improvement. First it altered its

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type, then it admitted the hitherto iniquitous photograph to its pages, and now it is going to get itself both handled and read. We shall expect even more glittering from its shingled and expanded splendour.

"Max."

Max Beerbohm has come again to town, and well the town knows it. At the Leicester Galleries, where his caricatures are being shown, the multitudes are gurgling with mirth; and truly a visit to them is a delightful experience.

I do not know how "Max," from his retreat (why is it always called that?) at Rapallo knows exactly what our statesmen and philosophers and successful literary men look like (our poets, of whom he gives us many reproductions, never, of course, miss him when they make the inevitable journey to Italy); but here they are, real and not to be mistaken. His series, which is called "The Old and the Young Self," is quite unforgettable; people like Arnold Bennett, H. G. Wells, Bernard Shaw, and Mr. Baldwin (to whom young Baldwin says, "Prime Minister? *You?* Good Lord!") are summed up with charming penetration. But none of these works is better than that which shows a bay-crowned Kipling, on whom a young Anglo-Indian Kipling breaks in with the cry, "I *say!* Have you heard the latest about Mrs. Hauksbee?"

Politics, literature, sociology, art, and many other things are chucklingly illumined by "Max," and if he is occasionally wrong in his exposition, he could easily disembarrass himself of the charge of intention to explain. His being so detached from us but makes this acute spectator when he is wrong the more attached to us, and he has an urbanity which makes our town manners and observations seem merely rustic.

The Southern Railway.

America has lost one of her most priceless possessions: the uniqueness of her Ford stories. For we, too, have lately excelled in this *genre*, the subject of our mirth being the Southern Railway. There is scarcely a traveller living in the South of England who would not enthusiastically testify to its extreme genius for eclecticism. Tales of its versatility appeared to reach their climax upon the occasion, on April 1, of the new electric installation; but last week all previous yarns were enshrouded in the mist of mediocrity, being run over and completely squashed, so to speak, by the train which went to Chislehurst by way of Sevenoaks.

It is not every day that our drivers and signalmen can be so replete with the merriment of things as to set a 4.40 train from Charing Cross a-wandering round the pleasant, sunny lands of Kent, when it is scheduled as being due in about an hour at Chislehurst. Even if it did no other good, the Southern Railway should be thanked for having taught millions of our ignorant proletariat the charm of Chesterton's poem about "the night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head."

Godfrey Isaacs.

The personality of Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, who died a day or two ago, was of more significance to our time than may be supposed. In many ways he was typical of the restless, brilliant genius of his race, a genius the ramifications of which appear to become wider with the passage of our time. To history he will be known probably for two things: his connection with the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, and his connection with the "Marconi scandal."

It is possible that in the political history of the first quarter of this century he will, to future generations, appear to have occupied a more commanding position than many suspected him of. The fact that a man who, perhaps more than any other, was responsible for raising the head of "anti-Semitism" in this country should have died a Roman Catholic will not make any easier the task of historians in estimating his influence.

Cricket.

It was a happy coincidence that as the Test Match cricketers returned to England from Australia the game really started in the Home Country. The professionals, the schoolboys, and all those to whom the game is a matter of livelihood or fame, have, of course, been practising for weeks now; but the ordinary club cricketer only began nets last night. This morning, in fact, he is sadly wondering why on earth he did not keep his muscles in better trim during the winter, and is likely—especially if these hibernal conditions endure—to feel stiff for a day or two yet.

Until the sun really shines, the ball will continue to have terrors that later become a delight.

Alter Ego.

GREEK EASTER SUNDAY.

April 19 was Easter Sunday according to the Greek calendar. A special service was held in the morning at the Greek Cathedral of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, Bayswater, there being a congregation of 400 members of the colony. All of them held lighted candles. The interior of the Cathedral was decorated with flowers, and the floor was strewn with palm leaves. The Metropolitan of Thyateira officiated, assisted by the Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, and the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangalos Moscovakis. Mr. Pitman conducted the musical part of the service. The liturgy of St. John Chrysostom was sung.

Among those present were M. Gennadius, M. Rangabé, formerly Greek Minister in London; M. Melas, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires; the personnel of the Legation, members of the Greek Naval Mission, and representatives of the Yugoslav Legation. At the conclusion of the service Easter eggs were distributed by the Archimandrites to the members of the congregation as they left the cathedral.

The Central News reported from Constantinople last Friday that Sheik Said, the leader of the Kurdish rebellion, and the principal supporters, had been tried by court martial, and will be executed at Angora.

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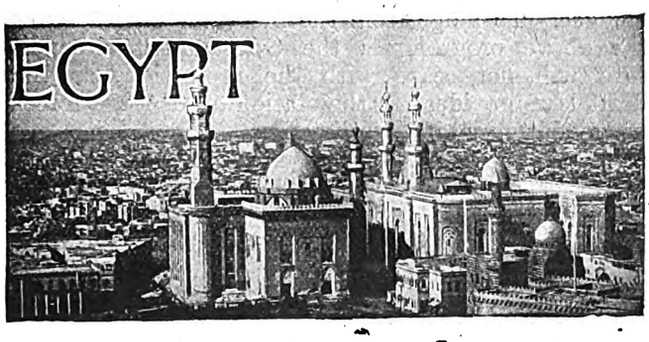
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, April 12.

The Geographical Congress.

The International Geographical Congress came to an end on Thursday afternoon. The fine lecture hall of the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt was filled to hear the valedictory speeches. In French, Italian, Arabic, and English, speaker after speaker proceeded to congratulate everyone who had been in any way concerned with the organisation of the Congress, and the proceedings terminated in an atmosphere of enthusiasm. Apparently all the delegates have thoroughly enjoyed this congress, and the experiment of holding it for the first time in an Oriental country is considered to have been so successful that the wish was several times expressed that in the near future another Eastern city may be chosen for the honour this year conferred upon Cairo.

What useful work the assembled geographers have accomplished it is a little hard yet to discover, since the only important subject on their agenda—the one-to-a-million scale map of the world—was adjourned to the next international gathering—in London three years hence. On the other hand, a large number of interesting papers have been read before the congress. From the point of view of this country, the holding of the congress here has been an unqualified success. The cost to the Government has probably been in the neighbourhood of £E10,000, by no means an excessive sum in view of the excellent advertisement which Egypt has received and the stimulus which has certainly been given to geographic research here, and, in particular, to the activities of the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt. The latter body, thanks largely to the generous interest in its activities taken by King Fuad, is now a very live organisation, and in its new premises it possesses magnificent headquarters, full of most interesting exhibits illustrating all phases of geographical research in the widest sense of the term. The delegates to the congress were frankly astounded to find in Cairo so splendid a building devoted to the needs of an unofficial body. With the ample funds it possesses, there seems no reason why the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt should not in the future take its place in the front rank of the world's learned societies.

The Electoral Law.

The fact that nothing has yet been made public regarding the activities of the Commission appointed to report on the revision of the electoral law has given rise to the rumour that the whole matter has been shelved and that the Government intends to do nothing more about it before next winter at the earliest. This is not correct, for the Commission has already held several meetings, although these have been of a preliminary character. It seems that Ismail Sidky Pasha and his colleagues intend to go into the question very thoroughly, and with this purpose are taking evidence from mudirs and Government officials who have been concerned with the application of the old laws. The drafting of a new law is certainly going to be a long business, and it is probable that the Commission will not end its labours before the autumn.

Cotton Strains.

There has been much criticism of the Ministry of Agriculture's proposals for preserving the purity of Egyptian cotton strains. It is the hardest thing in the world to buy pure seed, and, owing to the short-sighted policy of the majority of landholders, who, failing the presence at their elbows all the time of a Government inspector, refuse to take the precautions necessary to prevent the mixing of varieties, the situation is rapidly becoming worse. The Ministry of Agriculture's proposal to forbid the cultivation of Ashmouni or Zagora cottons in Lower Egypt would, on the face of it, provide a cure for the present state of things, but the General Agricultural Syndicate and several other powerful unofficial organisations are of opinion that the restrictive measures proposed would need a whole army of officials for their proper enforcement, and would at the same time inflict undue hardship on growers. Several alternative proposals have been put forward, and these are now being considered by the Ministry and the Agricultural Advisory Council. It seems improbable that a solution will be reached in the near future or without arousing much controversy.

Jerabub.

Jerabub continues to be the absorbing political question of the moment, and the Italian Government, which has really displayed much forbearance, is coming in for much unjustifiable criticism at the hands of Arabic leading-article writers. The present Egyptian Government, there is reason to think, appreciates the force of Italian claims to the oasis and the lack of value to Egypt of Jerabub. At the same time, although Jerabub has never been Egyptian, the local Press has taken up the attitude that a cession of Egyptian territory, which is forbidden by the Constitution, is involved. Any agreement recognising Italian rights in Jerabub will gain the Ziwar Ministry much unpopularity. On

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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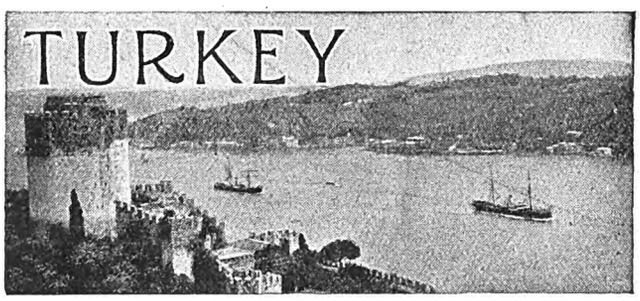
the other hand, the Italian Government has stated clearly that it does not intend to let a settlement be postponed much longer. From everybody's point of view it might be the simplest and easiest solution if the Italians just seized Jerabub, and then, if necessary, sat down to discuss the question afterwards.

Newspaper Amenities.

Faked plots and conspiracies are frequent in Egypt, and a typical example is now engaging the attention of the Native Parquet. A member of the Loutfallah family, feeling himself aggrieved by articles published in the *Kowkab el Sharq* (Star of the East) newspaper, complained to the Parquet. While the matter was being investigated the editor of the *Kowkab* telephoned to the police to say that two men had come to his office and confessed that they had been bribed by Loutfallah's chauffeur to kill him (the editor). The two men were arrested, and at first persisted in their story, but eventually admitted that it was an invention, and that they had been bribed to make it up by the *Kowkab's* editor himself. The *Kowkab* is a strongly Zaghloulist paper, which has bitterly attacked the present Ministry. Its editor is now being interrogated by the Parquet on two charges: first, of publishing defamatory articles, and, secondly, of arranging an imaginary conspiracy.



Constantinople, April 14.

Plans for Kurdistan.

The Kurdish revolt is now officially considered to have been stamped out, as the only place of any importance still holding out against Government troops is Ghendj, the fall of which is expected daily. The Government is elaborating a programme of administrative reform which is to be executed in the Oriental vilayets in order to prevent any repetition of revolutionary movements like the present one, which has had the serious effect of incurring an addition of thirty million liras to the already considerable deficit in the Budget. To judge from the measures envisaged in the above programme, the Government expenditure will not cease with the repression, as the draft law provides for the stationing of large forces of gendarmerie in Kurdistan to keep a keen eye on the exceedingly susceptible populations of that district. The fifteen vilayets recently affected by the rising are to be reduced to thirteen, which, in turn, will be redivided and placed under new Governors.

The Progressist Party.

There still appears to be some unfortunate suspicion resting on the comparatively newly formed Progressist Party, whose central and branch offices in the Constantinople area were two days ago the object of police perquisitions, which resulted in the seizure of all documents for careful examination at police headquarters. Kara Vassif and Reouf Beys, in subsequent declarations to the Press, state that they are entirely ignorant of the Government's object for instituting such inquiries, and express confidence that the investigations will prove the utter futility of harbouring suspicions against this honourable and loyal party.

Turkey and Egypt.

The Egyptian Diplomatic and Consular representatives, together with their staffs, are expected to arrive in Constantinople on April 19, and will proceed direct to Angora. After the presentation of his Letters of Credence, Aziz Hudaï Pasha will, it is believed, commence *pourparlers* with a view to the conclusion of a Turco-Egyptian Treaty of Friendship.

The Belgian Minister is at present on a visit to the capital for the purpose of presenting his Letters of Credence to the President, and the Diplomatic Representatives of various other countries who have recently concluded Treaties of Friendship with Turkey will soon leave for Angora for the same purpose.

Ambassadors and Angora.

The important question of Ambassadors residing at Angora has recently cropped up, and renewed efforts are being made to present the capital in its best light. The various advantages which the authorities hold are to be gained thereby are, however, apparently not as obvious to the foreign Powers represented in Turkey. Angora is never described in glowing colours by people in the ex-capital who have never visited the former, and this fact is, no doubt, somewhat responsible for the expression of agreeable surprise made by many visitors returning from Angora to Constantinople after their first visit. Needless to say, foreigners are not over-enthusiastic about that city, especially in its present state; nevertheless, there is a unanimous tendency in all returned visitors to state that it was previously represented to them in its worst possible colours. The Press is among the first to recognise the serious drawback caused by malaria as regards the possible establishment of Embassies at Angora, and reiterates observations on the primary importance to be attached to the task of rendering the new capital sanitarily inhabitable. The Government has seriously undertaken the work of ridding Angora of its well-known fevers, and, in order to attain the best results with regard to constructional work, the engagement of foreign specialists is contemplated. Numerous radical

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improvements are planned; it will, however, be a considerable time before the Turkish capital can be favourably compared with other capitals, and it appears improbable that until such time Ambassadors will care to transfer their residences from Constantinople.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, April 15.

King Boris' Escape.

Yesterday, April 14, King Boris had a truly wonderful escape from death. He was out motoring, accompanied by four persons, and his car was ascending a slight slope when a body of six bandits opened fire from both sides of the road. One of the first shots smashed the windscreen, with the result that the chauffeur became unconscious and fell out of the car. The King thereupon took the wheel, and tried to reverse the car down the slope. This proved impossible, so, along with the other occupants of the car, the King took cover. Just before being ambushed the royal car had passed a motor-bus which daily carries passengers and mail between Orhanie and Sofia. The King and his companions retreated in the direction of the motor-bus, carrying on a running fight with the bandits. During this fighting M. Iltcheff, Director of the Entomological Museum and a servant were killed. Finally the King succeeded in reaching the omnibus, which he himself drove to Orhanie with all possible speed. There he collected some thirty soldiers, and immediately returned to the scene of the ambush. He found that the bodies of the two dead men had been carefully ransacked by the bandits, of whom no trace could be found.

It was indeed a miraculous escape for King Boris, whose moustache was actually grazed by a bullet. There are at present two currents of opinion regarding the matter. On one side it is believed that the ambush was set for the Orhanie-Sofia mail, and that the King only became involved therein by chance. On the other hand, it is said that the bandits were political rather than ordinary highway robbers, which makes it feasible to suppose that the ambush was directed against the person of His Majesty. In the lack of definite evidence it is impossible to say which of these two theories is correct.

This news naturally caused tremendous excitement in Sofia, and there was great relief when it became known that the King was safe. This morning a *Te Deum* was celebrated outside the Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky, and afterwards a huge procession of Sofiotes and soldiers paraded through the streets, finally passing through the grounds of the Palace, where they acclaimed King Boris. This sad incident has indeed shown the intense loyalty of the Bulgarian people towards their young monarch, and it would have been a real tragedy if his life had been taken at a period when Bulgaria can ill afford to lose any of her leading citizens.

Increase in the Army.

The Conference of Ambassadors have authorised the Bulgarian Government temporarily to enrol 3,000 soldiers over and above those allowed by the Peace Treaty. These 3,000 are required in the event of the Communists attempting any disturbances. They will be discharged on May 31, and cannot possibly prove a danger to any of the neighbouring States, as has been suggested in certain quarters.

Another Deputy Slain.

Last night General of Reserve Gheorghieff Governmental Deputy and President of the Sofia Committee of the Democratic Entente, was assassinated near his house by two unknown men. So the vendetta goes on, and the best that one can hope for is that nothing worse will happen. General Gheorghieff was an important member of Parliament, but it was not suspected that his life was in any particular danger.

An Aeroplane Accident.

Two Bulgarian aviators engaged in "looping" have been killed. Their machine, which was of Austrian manufacture, broke one of its wings during the "loop," and as the aviators were flying at an approximate height of 3,000 feet the machine fell straight to the ground, and death was instantaneous.

OMAN (ARABIA).

Muscat, March 13.

Complaints Against the State Council.

Since the Sultan's arrival into Muscat many complaints have been presented to His Highness against the Council of the State. In addition to the charges made against this Council, its President, Saiyid Nadir, is charged with having monopolised the trade of pearl-fishery. The British protected subjects residing at Oman, as well as the Omanese dealing in this trade, presented jointly this latter charge against Saiyid Nadir. The British Political Agent and Consul at Muscat pleaded on behalf of the British protected merchants. The Sultan decided the case in favour of the merchants, and ordered freedom of the pearl fishery trade in Oman.

The Civil and the Religious Courts.

Another official with whom public dissatisfaction has been expressed is the President of the Civil Court. M. Ihtisham, the ex-Dragoman of the Political Agency, Muscat, has lately been discharged owing to his having given help to Zobeir (the President) and to his being suspected of following Zobeir's trail.

Sheikh Suleiman bin Zahran, Assistant President of the Religious Court, is charged with failing to administer justice to the litigants in his Court.

The Prince Regent of Oman Sultanate.

Saiyid Said, the Sultan's eldest son, has been appointed Prince Regent to the Oman Government. He was born on August 13, 1910. For the last three years he has been a student in the Ajmir College, India. Smart and intelligent, he is very popular in Oman, and has become quite endeared to the public. While he is at home during the school vacation he very often volunteers to plead the cases of the prejudiced litigants.

Early in January this year the Sultan, calling Saiyid Said from India, where he was studying,

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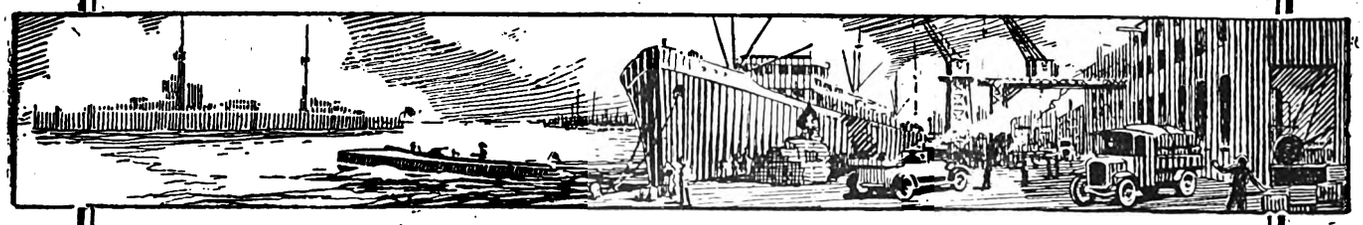

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ordered him to proceed on a trip in the Oman littoral. Having done this, Saiyid Said returned to Muscat, and on his arrival in the port he received from the Sultan's forts a salute of fifteen guns. This made Saiyid Nadir very indignant, owing to the fact that he receives a salute only of thirteen guns.

The Sultan and the British Officers.

The Sultan, being convinced of the inefficiency and dishonesty of H.H.'s officials, has come to this conclusion: that the only hope left for the relief of his Government is in the loyal services of the British officials, of whom he has already entrusted Messrs. Bower and Thomas, the former with Inspection and Controlling the Revenues of H.H.'s Customs, and the latter, who is expected to arrive soon in Muscat, with Chancellorship of H.H.'s Treasury. In addition to the services of these two competent officers, the Sultan is anxious to secure those of a British Legal Adviser to H.H.'s Government; but the Government of India has not sanctioned his request.

Since his arrival in Muscat Mr. Bower has been very hard at work in checking the accounts of the Customs. In spite of discovering irregularities of 70,000 rupees (£4,666) committed by the Customs former officials, he has reported a surplus of 100,000 rupees (£6,666) in the revenue of this year.

Misfortunes of the Omanese.

It is true that tyranny begets poverty, but in Oman both Nature and Man have participated to add to the misfortunes of these unfortunate Arabs. Their miseries can justifiably be termed as intolerable ones. These misfortunes are due (1) to internal revolts in Oman for very many years; (2) to tyrannies inflicted upon them by their rulers; and (3) to aridity caused by the scarcity of rainfall for the last few years. It is owing to these reasons that many villages in Oman have been deserted, and are now entirely depopulated. Should the Oman Government fail to remedy these conditions, many other villages have decided to leave Oman.

The Sultan's Government.

The fact that the Sultan's rule is weakening in the Oman districts adjacent to the coast is proved by the following event:—

Early in February this year Khalid and Mohammed, the Sultan's paternal cousins, were travelling from Ghashab Village, near Sohar (a port in northern Oman) to Birimah (some fifteen miles westward of Sohar). *En route*, both of these travellers were captured by eight Arab brigands, who, after capturing Mohammed and Khalid, tortured them, especially after ascertaining that they were of the Sultan's family, robbed them, and finally led their two victims to Dhanak (a village between Ghashab and Birimah). Here these pirate brigands sold both Khalid and Mohammed in public auction as slaves for 1,700 Rs. (£113).

The Sultan has failed to release his two enslaved cousins from their masters, in spite of offering a large sum of money for their ransom. The only alternative left for their redemption is to produce to their masters two slaves to stand in place of Mohammed and Khalid, and this step has been taken.

General.

The French Consulate in Muscat has been cancelled.

The German steamships have resumed their run into the Persian Gulf, with large cargoes of German merchandise.

Sheikh Suleiman El Barouni, the famous Tunisian Moslem, has completed his tour in Oman. He has been staying with Sheikh Issa bin Salih, the famous leader of El Harithi tribe of El Sharkiyah, Oman.

The surplus estimates of the Customs revenues of Oman for the next year are calculated to amount to 100,000 rupees.

A certain Sheikh of Oman having been in the habit of receiving large quantities of arms and ammunition from foreign factories, and having smuggled them into Oman, the British Indian Fleet has resumed diligent search of any coastal spots where they suspect landing of smuggled arms and ammunition.

THE WILD TRIBES OF ASIA MINOR.

By LAURANCE MORTON.

Although the Ottoman Turk, as a distinct national entity, is the dominant political element of the population of the mysterious peninsula of Anatolia, he is merely one tessera in the mosaic of races, tribes, and families which go to make up the ethnography of Anatolia, and it is upon these various non-Turkish peoples that my article dwells. It will be perhaps useful to preface my remarks with certain considerations of racial, political, and geographical order.

In the first grey dawn of things, at a time when Bezas of Megara laid the foundations of Byzantium on the shores of the Golden Horn, at a point not far from the modern railway terminus of Sirkeji, in Old Stamboul, a number of tribes known to the Byzantine historian under the generic name of Scythians roved the plains of Central Asia east of the Kara Korum, and with their flocks, herds, and women-folk, shifted their tents from the Altai Range on the south to the remote fur forests of the Siberian Steppes, according to season and pasturage, and so fan-wise to the deserts of the Gobi.

On these primitive tribesmen we have but scant record, except in regard to the Mongols who overthrew the Ming Dynasty of China and established the reign of the Dragon Throne.

Athens rose and fell; Alexander of Macedon extended his military rule to the Indus; the Lagidæ followed, and finally the Roman Eagle soared triumphant over the ruins of Grecian art and civilisation—until it in turn was winged by the Goths and Vandals in that mysterious trek of Asiatic barbarism which was in the order of evolution to alter the very name of places and things.

With the establishment of the Eastern Empire by Constantine the Great, this influx was for a very long time arrested, and, despite the incursion of Saracen, Pomak, Bulgar, Tartar, the Cæsars of the Lower Empire succeeded in maintaining their rule over the Levant for at least five centuries. This was largely due to the immense strategic importance and defensive strength of the bulwark

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of Western civilisation—the Imperial City which Constantine named the New Rome.

With the advent of the Seljuk and the hordes of Tamerlane, the Oriental invader finally broke down the weakening outposts of Byzantine culture in the East, and with the collapse of the last remnant of Byzantine resistance under Constantine XII., last of the Paleologi, who fell in the ultimate ditch, the whole fabric of Byzantine filigree had been absorbed in the meshes of a new and almost revolutionary order of things. The Osmanli Turk led the van, but in his triumphant train he paved the way to a number of tribes till then unknown in that part of the Orient. Thus, in the uplands of the Caucasus, Georgian, Mingrelian, Daghistanli, and possibly Albanians jostled Turkomans and Tartars and Khirghiz. Whether the modern Albanians are the direct descendants of the ancient Illyrians is uncertain. They, like the Armenians, have a history of their own. Circassian, Georgian, Mingrelian, and Daghistanli were converted to Islam—a race of men for the most part fair of countenance, with blonde hair and blue eyes, not unlike the Varanghi of Saxon blood, with whom they may have crossed swords in battle. These picturesque tribes appear to have settled in the valleys of Caucasia, and led a semi-nomad existence, with a touch of the predatory thrown in. There were reasons for this: Hitherto their ancestors had roamed the spaces of the immense continent with their flocks and herds, and if they indulged in an occasional foray, it was chiefly on account of water and pasture, but this predatory instinct did not develop in them until they had entered on the most mountainous regions of Anatolia, which are subject to a rigorous climate, and where pasturage is scant.

The Georgian and Circassian are more or less familiar to us. Their origin can be fairly well traced. But not so the equally warlike tribes, who, although near neighbours of theirs, are as distinct from them as chalk from cheese. What, for instance, of the Kurds, or the ancient Karduchii? Of the little known races of Asia Minor they are the most prominent in the story of Turkish rule. They are certainly neither Turk nor Tartar, but appear to be a blend of the two, with a strain of Arab blood grafted on to the original stock. Are they a tribe akin to the Parthians? Their language is more Arabic than Turkish, and what Turkish they speak is of a garbled description. For a bellicose point of view, they have much in common with the Albanian, once the darling soldier of Abdul Hamid, and as such they have been the immortal foe of the industrious Armenian of the valleys whom it has been their practice to raid, rob, and murder, just as the Arnaut was the terror of the Greek population of Epirus in bygone times.

The happy hunting-ground of the Kurd may be described fairly correctly as lying to north of the sources of the Euphrates, and veering round to the mountains of Armenia. The tribes owe a sort of allegiance to a chief enjoying the unofficial title of dere bey, or lord of the valley, similar to what the Albanian chieftains enjoyed under Abdul Hamid. During that ill-starred reign, they provided several cavalry regiments whose predatory instincts considerably marred the virtue of discipline. But it was the Kurdish soldiery who were employed by Hamid for the ruthless massacre of the luckless Armenian, and as such they will be for ever hated by Oriental Christendom.

Of swarthy countenance, the Kurds wear a picturesque headdress not dissimilar to the *haik* of the Bedouin, and on high days and holidays appear in gorgeous attire, with breeches of many colours, the whole enveloped in a white silk mantle. They are perhaps the most savage tribe of the peninsula, and the most treacherous. Few of them can read or write. I have even heard it related by a missionary that until quite recently an ordinary looking-glass was unknown in parts of Kurdistan.

From the desolate hills of Mosul, let us turn our eyes to the Black Sea. In that corner whence Xenophon and the Ten Thousand first acclaimed the sight of salt water live another tribe in many respects not dissimilar. I refer to the Laz. Equally predatory and no less warlike, they are more of a maritime folk. Physically, the Laz is a magnificent specimen, with classic features, but as cruel as he is brave. They are the most dreaded pirates of the Turkish main. The majority are Moslem, but they do not speak Turkish. In fact, they have an idiom of their own, which on analysis is a garbled form of ancient Greek. This tongue they share with the Christian section of the race, who were more settled until the recent Kemalist exodus drove them from the soil of what was once the richest agricultural province of Asiatic Turkey. From this warlike race one of the finest infantry regiments was recruited under Abdul Hamid's time, and the Trebizond battalions with their black headdress and grey and black uniforms, with bayonets glistening under a brilliant sun, was a spectacle not to be forgotten. During the Balkan war it was a Laz battalion that worsted the Bulgars by a bayonet attack at Chatalja.

The Laz wears a similar headdress to the Kurd's, but discards the flowing *haik* for a more serviceable short jacket and sea-boots. A born smuggler and pirate, he will run his gaudily painted lodka, or two-masted yawl, into any creek or river mouth, raid the district, and be off before any Turkish *zaptieh* can become aware of his presence, and, if cornered, he will put up a brave fight. From his seafaring instincts and his peculiar tongue one may reasonably infer that he is in some way descended from the ancient Greek colony which settled in Pontus.

The Yoroukli are a more Turkish tribe. They are nomads wandering in the west of the peninsula, less predatory, and following peaceful pursuits, including the manufacture of a particular rug which bears their name. They certainly have peculiar ideas of property. What they fancy they annex, and where they settle they won't be shifted, and it is an article of their faith that Allah made all the world for them. So that if you have a very nice farm, woe betide you if the Yoroukli take a liking to it. You may protest to the end of time. The Turks are powerless to shift them.

Then there is a tribe known as the Amali, hewers of wood and drawers of water, who work on the mines in the Heraklea region. They live literally on a bag of flour. They lay it on the ground where they work, use it for making into bread baked in the ashes of a wood fire, and finally sleep on it as a pillow by night. When their precious bag is empty, they will take their wages and retire to their native homes, spend the money on their farms, and return to the scene of their labours with another bag of meal.

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THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

Mr. C. P. Skrine will deliver the second of his lectures on "The Roads to Kashgar" to the Central Asian Society, on April 24, 5 p.m., at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall. The lecture is to be illustrated with lantern slides.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 23, 1925 (New Style).
April 10, 1925 (Old Style).
Ramadan 29, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Nisan 29, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mrs. Wilfrid Brownlow will arrive back from India at the end of April.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall have arrived at 41, Berkeley Square, from the Continent.

The Turkish Ambassador returned last week to London from Brighton, where he spent Easter.

Sir John Power, M.P. for Wimbledon, who has been seriously ill, has gone to Egypt to recuperate.

Sir Basil and Lady Blackett have arrived in London from India, and are staying at Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W.1.

The Roumanian Minister in London and Mme. Titulesco returned to 50, Grosvenor Street, last Friday from Bournemouth.

Lieut.-General Sir J. M. Babington and Lady Babington, who have been wintering in Egypt, returned to England last Thursday.

The Bulgarian Minister in London and his daughter, Mlle. Haji-Mischeff, have returned to 24, Queen's Gate Gardens, from Paris.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen will return to 35, Catherine Street, at the end of this month from Egypt.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson returned last week to 41, Green Street, Park Lane, from her tour in South America, Egypt, Palestine, and Syria.

Gholam Hossein Khan Sadri, Farid-es-Saltaneh, Honorary Attaché at the Persian Legation, returned to London last Thursday from Brighton.

Sir Henry Wheeler, Governor of Bihar and Orissa, and Lady Wheeler, have been spending a few days in the South of France before coming to England.

Major-General Sir Hastings and Lady Anderson left London last Thursday by the P. and O. express to join the steamship Mooltan at Marseilles for Karachi.

M. Jean Romanos, whose father, M. Athos Romanos, was formerly Greek Minister at the Court of St. James, has been appointed Secretary at the Greek Legation.

Dr. Georges V. Todorovitch, Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London on April 15 from Eastbourne.

Viscount and Viscountess Ullswater, who have been on a visit to Egypt and Palestine since the middle of February, returned to 33, Great Cumberland Place, on April 15.

Viscountess Willingdon has been ordered abroad for two months after her recent attack of pneumonia. She and Lord Willingdon left for the South of France last Sunday.

M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister in London, who is at present in Greece in connection with the negotiations for the renewal of the Serbo-Greek Alliance, will return to London at the beginning of May.

Mr. George C. Cobbé, American Vice-Consul at Alexandria for the last two years, has been transferred to Nantes, and sailed from Egypt by the s.s. "President Garfield" on April 15 for France to take up his new post.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Mr. F. H. Brown will read a paper entitled "Indian Students in Great Britain," on April 27, at 3.30 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Viscount Chelmsford will preside.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Paris, between H.I.H. Prince Burhaneddin, of Turkey son of the late Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid, and Lady Sholto Douglas, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mosselmans, of The Hague.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, will be At Home at 7, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, to-morrow between 10 and 12 o'clock noon, and from 4 to 6 o'clock, to receive the members of the Egyptian Colony in London on the occasion of the Ramadan Bairam.

Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in India, will not leave London to assume his office until after the funeral service for the late General Lord Rawlinson, which will take place in London on April 25. He will be present at the service as chief mourner from the Army in India.

The marriage was celebrated on April 14 at the Parish Church, Ufton Nervet, Berks, by the Rev. A. E. Brisco Owen, M.A., Rector, between Herbert Edward, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jackson, formerly of Constantinople, and later of Salonika, and Monica Edith, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. H. Whittall, of Moda, Constantinople.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1925.

BULGARIA'S GRAVE CRISIS.

A very grave situation prevails in Bulgaria. Within the four days April 13 to 16 three separate outrages occurred; on Monday, King Boris, returning to Sofia in a motor-car, was attacked by bandits within twenty miles of the capital, and two members of the party were killed; the following day General Constantine Gheorghieff, a Deputy, and President of the Sofia section of the Democratic Entente, the party now in power, was assassinated in a street in Sofia; and on Thursday, when the funeral service for the murdered general was being held in the old Cathedral, a bomb exploded, shattering the roof, and killing one hundred and forty of those present, while many more were injured. It is possible, but by no means certain, that three separate agencies were involved in the perpetration of these crimes. The attack on the King would seem to have been the work of ordinary bandits, for they robbed the bodies of the dead men; the murder of General Gheorghieff may well be a fresh stage in the vendetta that has raged in the country since the murder of the Macedonian leader, Todor Alexandroff; the dastardly outrage in a cathedral indicates that Bulgarian Communism has now definitely adopted anarchist methods in pursuit of political ends. The three crimes together reveal a state of affairs that calls for serious attention outside Bulgaria as well as within. That a band of outlaws should be operating within twenty miles of Sofia would be a serious reflection on the state of public security, if there were not reason to suppose that behind their activities existed a foreign organisation. It may be true that to a certain extent the Bulgarian Government has allowed itself to be paralysed by the disabilities under which, as a result of an unsuccessful war, it has to carry on the administration of the country, and because it has not been permitted to have as large a gendarmerie as it desires, has not taken the trouble to see to it that the small force actually enrolled is maintained at the highest standard of efficiency. The difficulties in the Government's way will not be overlooked. In the Balkans an outlaw is easily made, and in addition to the political incentive, which has been particularly strong since the death of Stambolisky, there is the economic stress in Bulgaria that has overtaken the many thousands of refugees that have poured into the country from Macedonia and Thrace. When every allowance has been made, it bespeaks a very harassed or a neglectful Government that allows bandits to threaten the safety of the roads within a short distance of the capital.

Communism in Bulgaria presents a complicated problem. It would not be fair to charge the Government with the fact that Communist activities have been steadily on the increase since the present Cabinet assumed office. The rebellion of September, 1923, was put down with such a stern hand that it seemed as if the power of Communism had been broken for some time; but the experience of the authorities has shown that this was not the case. The stimulus from outside the country is admitted. Bolshevist intrigue appears to have fastened upon Bulgaria by way of compensation for failure in the West. If the documents seized by the Bulgarian authorities are authentic, there can be no doubt that something in the nature of a Communist *coup d'état* was being arranged for the present month, or, failing that, a terrorist campaign was to be set on foot, with the definite object of making the country a Bolshevist outpost in Europe. Although Bulgaria must work out her own salvation, there is no justification for those who are concerned to maintain the peace of Europe in allowing the scales to be weighted against her. Bolshevist intrigues in Bulgaria are facilitated by the existence of a clearing-house in Vienna and, to a minor extent, it is alleged, by the presence of Bulgarian exiles in Yugoslavia. It may be difficult for the Belgrade Government to deal with the latter; but Austria, it would be thought, is sufficiently beholden to the Allied Powers to afford them an opportunity to point out that it is prejudicial to Austrian interests that Vienna should remain indefinitely a sanctuary for political and social anarchists. The fact remains, however, that the Government's enemies are Bulgarians, and the success of Bolshevist intrigue lies in the political discontent which Soviet agents know so well how to use for their own purposes. Many friendly observers have watched for some time past with the utmost misgiving the widening breach between two main sections of the Bulgarian people. Communism has provided a convenient label for the Government's opponents, but frequently there was a simpler explanation than Soviet proselytism of the presence of large numbers in the hostile camp. Unfortunately, the Tsankoff Government has so far discovered no bridge with which to span a gap that ought not to have been allowed to assume such serious proportions, and efforts to this end may prove still more difficult in the face of last week's outrage.

For the moment there can be no alternative to the proclamation of martial law. The heinousness of the crime perpetuated in the old Cathedral, we should like to think, will have the effect of separating all patriotic Bulgarians from the Communist camp. Many of them can explain to their own satisfaction their presence there; but they have now no longer any excuse for countenancing a policy which resorts to wholesale massacre as a means to its end. If, however, the inner ring of Communists and Anarchists is to be isolated from the much larger numbers who have been inclined to identify themselves with the Communist Party as the only effective rallying-ground for the opponents of the bourgeois parties, the Government must take care that it is not made impossible for these people to sever their connection with the extremists. An over-zealous policy in the past has been responsible for swelling the ranks of nominal Communism, until it seemed as if this question actually divided the Bulgarian people into two more or less equal camps. To drive the pseudo-Communists into the arms of the extremists at this stage would be a fatal policy for the country, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government will not allow itself to be carried by its natural indignation into a campaign of ruthless repression. Never was there a greater need for discrimination in the application of martial law. The end for which a patriotic Government must strive is to bring all sections of the people together again to a sense of national unity. Bulgaria has a valuable asset for this purpose in the person of her sovereign, King Boris, who at this grave crisis has not only shown himself possessed of personal courage and cool resourcefulness, but has also set a splendid example of

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devotion in the country's service. If the politicians in this national emergency can forget to be partisans, and will aim only at restoring to the Bulgarian people its national consciousness, they will the more quickly exorcise from the country's midst the foul spirit of anarchy that masquerades as Communism.

A TURKISH NEW WOMAN.

By "M.A.P."

Late in the nineties of last century, when I first met Halideh Edib she was a pupil at the Constantinople American College for Girls, the thriving educational institution then situated on a sightly height at Scutari, just across the Bosphorus from Stamboul. Edib Bey, Halideh's father, a man of liberal ideas, lived with one of his families near the college, and rumours were current that the Sultan Abdul Hamid was none too well pleased with him for sending his daughter to a *giaour* institution, where she might imbibe notions inconsistent with the education thought necessary for a Moslem girl at that time. The men of the land, especially those belonging to the aristocratic families, might be suffered to relax a little in the strict observance of the outward and picturesquely visible forms of their religion; but a Moslem woman was supposed to hold to her faith with even fanatical fervour, and, were it known, might be severely dealt with for any lapse of belief in the teachings of the Prophet.

Edib Bey was therefore in advance of his time in wishing his daughter to have a liberal Western education, though I cannot say that he would have approved of her becoming a Christian; nor can I say we thought at the time, or think now, in the light of subsequent dramatic happenings in her life, that she was ever really moved to a change of faith, helpful to this end and really beautiful as were her school surroundings. Though her father's house was only a few streets away, she remained closely within the limits of the college walls and grounds during the greater part of her school life. Spies were very much in evidence in those days, and fathers who sent their daughters to foreign schools and daughters who studied under foreign teachers were watched with none too friendly eyes.

In her early schooldays one might have prophesied that pretty, solemn-eyed, rather wistful of countenance, keen in study—especially in literature—little Halideh Edib would become leader among her race, as a writer, or even as a philosopher, if you please. But such was her gentleness, almost humbleness of demeanour, that few could anticipate she would become a counsellor of men, a minister in governmental as well as in educational affairs, or that she would herself carry a rifle and become a leader in battle as the years went on.

At the end of her college course, while she was still in her teens, she married Salih Bey, the professor of Turkish at the American College, and two little boys were born to her of this marriage. It is interesting to remember that when her first child was born she received the congratulations of her woman friends in true Turkish fashion—in her chamber, dressed in festal garb, the baby on a pillow by her side—within a few hours after his birth.

Very clearly do I remember many talks, many Turkish proverbs given me, and a certain walk with her in her schooldays through the old Turkish cemetery at Scutari, a weirdly interesting place which the living also frequent in numbers; where the cypresses cast deep but not depressing shadows on the tombstones that lean at all angles, caused by time and neglect, for few seem ever to be righted or repaired once they lean from their original position. Very interesting, too, are the inscriptions on many of these dilapidated tombstones, several of which Halideh translated for me, and, though now afar from that environment, they still remain fresh in my memory. I venture to quote two from these translated-from-the-Turkish inscriptions. The first, on a tombstone of a young girl, reads: "To the Eternal. I have ascended the mountain-top, no necessity for the plain; I have drunk the wine of death, no necessity for Lokman." (Lokman, greatest of old physicians.) The second inscription is on the tombstone of a man, and says: "Drown me in forgiveness, make me forgiveness itself—O God of Light, for the sake of High Heaven and the light of the Koran."

Soon after Halideh's marriage the immemorial East—the Near East part of the greater East—began to quicken its pace and to make history, as the West would express it, in record time! Abdul Hamid did not listen to the near and also distant rumblings of discontent within his empire, or at least thought he had the restless spirits well under control through the agency of his spies and armies. But the "bloodless revolution," starting to the north-west of his capital at first, drew its perfected web of action close about him in July, 1908, and took possession of Constantinople before the Caliph could protest by force of arms. It seems that Turkish women as well as Turkish men were used as agents to spread throughout the empire the watchwords, *Ittihad ve Terekeh*—Union and Progress. (This revolution began so generously in theory and action, was welcomed and carried out so patriotically by Christian and Jew as well as Moslem—why could not the movement have remained on the same high plane and the work been continued by patriots instead of degenerating and coming at last mostly under the domination of self-seeking adventurers?) It was a time of rejoicing on all sides in the once great Byzantine capital. Of course, there were reactionaries, but they dared not, during the first months of the reign of Union and Progress, openly show their disapproval. Later, during the month of April, 1909, when Abdul Hamid's soldiers in the city mutinied, and the Committee was driven into hiding until an army from Macedonia could march upon the city, retake it, and relieve the situation, there were hasty temporary flights of revolutionary patriots, both men and women. I am not sure, but I think it was at this time that Halideh Hanoum was taken to England by Miss Elizabeth Fry, the distinguished philanthropist and educator, and the daughter of Sir Edward Fry. Thus Halideh, together with other of her fellow-countrymen and women when they have been hunted, have reason to be grateful to that land which they have been pleased to regard more or less as an enemy—of their own making—in recent years.

But I would put all discussion of the troubled and uncertain present aside and simply state that during the Great War, Halideh Hanoum stood staunchly by her country in its stand with Germany against the Allies; that at the end of the War, when the Nationalists under Mustapha Kemal, displeased with the Treaty of Sèvres, set up

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a government at Angora, our heroine—the Allies' enemy heroine then, alas—escaped the vigilant watch of the Allied commanders at Constantinople, and joined the Nationalist forces. The part she had played heretofore in her nation's interest, the speeches she made at Constantinople on education and the position of women, the various books she had written—both novels and textbooks—all this work was as nothing compared with the capacity for leadership she has lately shown; as, for example, her leadership in arms against the Greeks, her position as Minister of Education on joining the Turkish Nationalists at Angora, and her task as one of the chief advisers of Mustapha Kemal! In this new rôle she reminds one a little of the famous Rani of Jhansi of the Indian Mutiny days. Of this latter forceful person it is said that she dressed as a man, fought as a man, and is referred to by one historian as "a resolute woman, who alike in council and in the field was the soul of the conspirators."

Halideh Hanoum's present husband, Dr. Adnan Bey, was vice-president of the Great National Assembly at Angora early in its formation, and later Turkish High Commissioner at Constantinople when the Allies were concluding their negotiations with the Nationalist Government; her sons by her first husband escaped to the United States while Turkey was still at war, and are being educated there. Perhaps she learns from them that this Nationalist movement, which she joined with all her heart, soul, and talents, while understandable, is not in many ways above suspicion and reproach in its treatment of some of the Christian peoples of that land. Long before the Seljuks and the forefathers of the Osmanli people rode out of the highlands of Central Asia, Asia Minor was peopled with civilised and virile races, who adopted Christianity under the teaching and example of St. Paul and Barnabas, and other representatives of the Early Church who followed them bearing the Christian message. In expelling the Christian peoples from that region, Turkey is sending into exile many of the descendants of those who have called Asia Minor home since the dawn of recorded history.

But no one who has ever known her can doubt Halideh Hanoum's warm patriotism and sincerity to her cause, even though in many ways she may misguide herself, and, perhaps because of her great talents, may misguide others. In the light of these later events in Halideh's history I should like to quote a little address she gave before a party of ladies in our drawing-room at Constantinople, in the winter of 1908-9, just after the revolution of the Young Turks had brought more freedom to their women and made the outspoken word possible. It is given from her own manuscript, in English—the language she used that afternoon:—

"*Salaam of Osman.*" "In the green land of the great Osman which has begun to wither, shadowed by sun-capped hills, I saw a lake of light. The pale falling glitter of the morning stars sank into its depths; the clouds of dawn coloured it with a rosy flush; the first light with its pearly whiteness polished the face of the water. Over it there came to me a roaring, resounding voice addressing the heavenly lights where an awesome silence reigned as if the world were dead.

"This lake of light was a mirage! Mirage of the faces of the liberator and liberated. Their eyes open towards a new horizon, their foreheads illuminated by a sublimity hitherto unreached, they were sinking into the Nirvana of the Infinite.

"Those faces turned upwards towards Osman's lofty tomb expressed the agonised sensibility of those souls that have drunk of the divine mysteries. The walls of the tomb are covered with ivy and the ceiling with cobwebs, but the grand old sepulchre opening its mouth reveals to the gazers the foundation of the nation shaken, broken, divided, but not decayed.

"The eyes that were turned to the hill dominating the Brussa plains saw him greater than his natural grandeur. The long arms that tired not from being stretched over our heads for centuries, the white beard that fell on the whiter shroud, the deep, dark eyes penetrating into the depths of our future, all saluted the soul of the people.

"The voice vibrated alone in the atmosphere that embraces the fatherland. It sounded over the heads of the people who are shedding blood for liberty, over the armies that writhe and get crushed in their struggle from darkness to light.

"Thus he spoke: 'Salaam, my soldiers who have saved my people from death and my already diminished lands from partition. Salaam, my heroes who have come to rebuild where cornerstones have fallen, where domes have declined and once-flourishing regions are now heaps of ruins. The destroyers of my justice and equality ye have destroyed. The nation declined, the virtues were forgot, the generation that was losing its manliness by prolonged tyranny and torture—to them ye have given new blood, new life.

"'Salaam, thou new generation that stopped the feet coming to trample my grave. Salaam, O army. Ye have so nobly refused to be driven from the lands whose key, Gallipoli, was a present of my grandson, Shahzade Sulleyman. Ye have looked into the very eyes of death. My salt and bread be blessed to you this very day. Against the arms that would have driven ye barefooted to distant plains of Asia ye have rebelled. The falling foundations of this great nation ye have sustained. Yes, blessed my soldiers be not only my salt and bread to you, but also my name.

"'Salaam, 'Osman's beloved; brave orphans dejected and scorned, my soul has ever yearned for you and my dead arms have ached in their weakness to help you.

"'But a nation that boasts the name of Osman will not, and cannot, die, mark my children. Leaven my people with learning and my lands with progressive life, and live. Give up no more, not an inch, not an atom of this sacred land where the fresh-spilt blood has not yet dried!'

"The sun was rising, the mirage was vanishing, the sound dying. The voice whose majesty could not be quelled by the grave echoed over the snowy tops of Olympus, adding with a last effort: 'Forget not, trample not the least of my children's rights. But to ye whom I call not only my children, but comrades, blessed be my lands and seas! From the flourishing fields to the tottering ruins, blessed be my possessions to ye!'—Halideh Salih."

How strangely prophetic, how patriotic, yes, and how *Turkish* it reads! If sixteen years ago Halideh Hanoum could speak with such feeling, could make the great Osman express himself so eloquently from his tomb, one can understand what a force this Moslem woman must be among her people to-day; can understand how the Turkish soldiers, hojas, and military commanders listen to her words and look upon her almost as an inspired leader. There is certainly one able, even fanatical, woman adviser behind this great Turkish Nationalist movement; though I question, knowing something of the poetry and gentleness, as well as the strength of her nature, whether she would have advised her fellow-leaders to make some of the extreme decisions and to bring about such abrupt changes as they have since the Allies withdrew and left them to administer as they will a part of their former territory.

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ANGORA'S INTELLECTUAL AWAKENING.

By E. EALES.

The astonishing political changes that have taken place in Turkey during the past few years have not been without their influence on the intellectual life of the people. There has been a very definite literary renaissance, and one has only to compare the precision and fervour of modern Turkish writers with the sleepy elegance of their predecessors to be convinced that a vast transformation has taken place both in feeling and language.

Ruchene Bey, a foremost writer in the Turkey of to-day, has given interesting details about the development of literature in his native country, and has waxed enthusiastic over the progress made in letters since the day when the first daily newspaper was founded in Turkey by Chinassi.

Chinassi, together with Namik Kemal and Sady Pasha, was among the earliest writers to come in contact with Western literature, and French influence strongly marked the work of all three men. This was by no means to be regretted, for thanks to their study of the great French masters of style the Turkish literary language was freed from Persian and Arabian formalism, and gained in lightness and clarity.

Following this first school came imitators of Western prose and poetry, too recherché in style, but absolutely Turkish in feeling. The best writers of this period were Tewfik Fikret, the Nationalist poet, and the prose-writers and novelists, Jenab Chehabeddin, Hussein Jahie, and Halid Zia.

Since the eventful year 1912, however, all foreign influence has been deliberately cast aside in literature, and Turkish writers write for Turkish readers on Turkish subjects. They use the style of the East, and treat all topics from an Oriental point of view, and Hamboullah Soubhi, the Minister of Education and founder of the paper *Turkish Hearth*, has done much to advance Nationalist ideas by his lectures and articles.

Novelists abound in modern Turkey; Jakoub Kadri and Refik Halid are both celebrated, though the latter is considered by Young Turkey as a traitor to Nationalist aspirations. And a significant sign of the times is to be seen in the fact that one of the most widely-read novelists in Turkey at the present day is a woman, Halideh Edib Hanoum, who took an active part in military affairs during the War. One of her latest books is called "The Red Shirt"; it describes Turkish domestic life and manners, and is read from Angora to Constantinople.

The two best-known poets are Mehmid Enine and Zia Gueuk Alp, the latter of whom is also an authority on social questions.

Nor does New Turkey neglect the drama, the foremost playwright being Reshad Noury. His plays, gently ironical, somewhat subtle and full of a certain charm, are founded upon plots of a definitely Turkish interest. They never fail to please the theatre-goers for whom they are intended, and are always enthusiastically received by their audiences.

Angora and Mustapha Kemal symbolise, as Capital and Patriot respectively, the spirit that is animating the Turkish literature of to-day. The wind of independence has blown over the dry bones of Ottoman lethargy, and a general renaissance has been the result.

Time alone will prove whether this new-born Turkey has sufficient vitality and staying-power to arrive at maturity.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE TURK AS A CAPTOR.

"ADVENTURES IN TURKEY AND RUSSIA." By E. H. Keeling. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d.)

Readers of The Near East are probably familiar with the war adventures of Mr. E. H. Keeling, but it is good to have in permanent form his considered preferment of the case against Turkey for her treatment of British prisoners of war, particularly during the dreadful years of 1916-1917. By relating his own experiences, after being taken prisoner at Kut in 1916, to his adventures in Kurdistan and Syria subsequent to the Armistice. Mr. Keeling sets out the charge against the Ottomans, a charge which, it is foolish to forget, is still unanswered. Amends for the needless sufferings and the final hardships which our Kut prisoners, especially the privates, had to endure at the hands of the Turkish authorities, have never been made, and, whatever apologia certain generals or officials may make on behalf of their Turkish *vis-à-vis*, at least the ordinary British soldier will never be convinced that the Turks did not deserve a richer punishment for what they meted out, or allowed to be meted out, to our unfortunate men. The gratitude of all those who prefer realities to illusions is due to Mr. Keeling for so forcibly reminding us of what it has been the fashion to forget: that the Turks responsible for the ill-treatment of British prisoners during the War have been unpunished.

The trek which the party of officers, of whom Mr. Keeling was one, made over two thousand miles from Kut to Kastamuni is well and succinctly told in these pages; and the life of the prisoners at Kastamuni, though not so fully described as in some other books, is vividly enough drawn. Mr. Keeling's story increases in excitement when he, together with three other prisoners, escape to the Black Sea, only to be captured by Turkish soldiers, who, in their turn, are captured by brigands. How, in company with these brigands, three British officers (one of the four, Sweet, having unfortunately separated from the party when the brigands surprised them) sailed across the sea to Russia, makes a fine story. Excellent reading, too, is the series of adventures which the author had in Russia—then in the process of Bolshevising herself.

What Mr. Keeling has to say on post-War diplomacy—at least, on Allied attitudes towards

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the Near Eastern problems raised by the War—makes a sorry tale. So often the guiltless suffered, the guilty escaped. Nor was our own Government by any means free from blame. Those ruffians—many still living—who smirched the name of their country beyond forgetting were, many of them, apprehended by British forces, but, later, in some unaccountable manner, were allowed to escape from Malta. After that the hands of the British Government grew towards Turkey increasingly unwilling and impotent; with the pitiful result which is to be seen to-day.

It is not, however, part of Mr. Keeling's endeavour to establish a case against Turkey—that, from his very record, establishes itself—but, rather, to ensure that similar sufferings may not be endured by British prisoners of war in the future. He attributes the tragic story to the fact that neither the Foreign Office nor the War Office was anxious to assume complete responsibility, and, in conclusion, makes the very sensible suggestion that a special Government department be created to deal with the lot of our prisoners of war.

One may add, in heartily recommending this book as a moderate but quite damning statement of the case which British prisoners had during the years of the War against the Turks, that it is presented complete with illustrations, maps, and index.

WESTERN CIVILISATION THROUGH INDIAN EYES.

"THE DANCE OF SIVA." (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, and Kent. 10s. 6d. net.)

We are glad to see that this collection of Mr. Coomaraswamy's scholarly and stimulating essays has been reprinted, though it would have been well if the publisher had called some attention to the fact that this is not a new collection from the brilliant author's pen. The "Introductory Preface" by M. Romain Rolland is rather of the "sloppy" kind, of which we have grown so weary when sentimental Westerns elect to enlighten us on Indian philosophical or artistic matters. There is nothing of this in Mr. Coomaraswamy's writing. The reader may agree or not, but he is, at all events, given something to chew on, and cannot help feeling that he is face to face with a vigorous intellect well equipped by eastern and western study for presenting a view to which we have been perhaps too little unaccustomed.

C. S-W.

BOOK RECEIVED

"Britain and Egypt: The Growth of Egyptian Nationalism." By M. Travers Symons. (London: Cecil Palmer. 7s. 6d. net.)

29TH DIVISION MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The annual memorial service to the 29th Division (Gallipoli, 1915-16) will be held next Saturday (April 25), the tenth anniversary of the landing on the Peninsula, in Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, at 11 a.m. An address will be given by the Rev. E. Noel Mellish, V.C., and the band and trumpeters of the Royal Artillery will assist at the service, under Captain E. C. Stretton, Director of Music, R.A. Tickets for reserved seats may be obtained from the vicar, the Rev. H. A. Hall, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Eltham, who was the divisional chaplain at the landing.

It is hoped that by the help of friends it may be possible to finish the memorial to the division in the chapel of Holy Trinity Church. Subscriptions may be sent to the vicar. Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington has presented the flag which flew over his headquarters at Kilia, and he and many other officers will be present at the service.

A CYPRUS GREETING.

We have received the following telegram from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol, Cyprus, dated April 18: "The Pan-Hellenic Games are commencing on Monday. Forty-two athletes have arrived from Athens, and twenty-one from Egypt, together with several committees. The representatives were given an enthusiastic reception by enormous masses of the population, who cheered Greece."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Mixed Commission for voluntary emigration of the Greco-Bulgarian populations left Athens last Friday for Sofia.

A Communist organisation has been discovered by the Roumanian military police at Hotin, in Bessarabia. Several persons have been arrested.

The 14th Zionist Congress will open in Vienna on August 18, and will be attended by about 400 delegates from all parts of the world. The election of delegates will begin at the end of June.

It is understood, says the *Morning Post*, that the Egyptian Cabinet has decided to reduce the salaries of members of Parliament from £E50 to £E30 a month, and to cut down the cost of the Secretariat by one-third.

According to the *Morning Post* Belgrade correspondent, in Yugoslav governmental circles a project is being discussed at present for the construction of a monument to the late Tsar of Russia in memory of his work for the independence of the Serbian nation.

The troopship Assaye, carrying the body of Lord Rawlinson to England, arrived at Malta last Thursday morning. All flags on shore and on the ships in the harbour were flown at half-mast. A salute of 17 guns was fired from the forts on the arrival of the ship.

According to Reuter's Cairo correspondent, the Governor-General of the Sudan has pardoned the twelve students of the military school at Khartoum who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment last year in connection with the disturbances in the Sudan arising out of the machinations of the White Flag Society. The students have taken an oath of fidelity, and have signed engagements for their future good behaviour.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

British Trade in Turkey.

I have often had occasion to comment on the poor showing made by British trade in the Near East. Nothing could do more to counteract this tendency than plain speaking with regard to the position in these markets by the leading commercial and trade associations, and I am glad to see that a resolution has been passed by the Association of British Chambers of Commerce to the effect that at this time of industrial depression Turkey presents a field for British trade and enterprise which, under the guidance of reliable agents, offers an outlet for British manufacturers. But trade is not to be obtained in this or any other Near Eastern market by waiting for orders or by looking for business without being prepared to cater as far as is possible for the local market requirements. The tendency to do this kind of thing has been our failing in the past. In the case of Turkey a good deal of trade has been done in the last year or two, especially in regard to agricultural machinery, and our trade rivals, with more energy and enterprise, have in the main reaped the benefit. Thus in the last eighteen months some six hundred American tractors have been exported to Turkey. This extensive order simply illustrates the efforts that are being made by the Turkish Government to place agriculture—the staple industry of the country—on a satisfactory basis. British agricultural machinery firms ought to find ample opportunity in Turkey for business on a large scale, for it cannot be maintained that America is at any advantage as compared with this country as a result of the war.

The Rising Drachma.

During the last few weeks there has been a steady and appreciable improvement in the Greek exchange, and from 314 drachmæ to the pound sterling it has appreciated to 251 drachmæ. This tendency may broadly be said to represent the general improvement in the conditions in the country. Thus great progress has been made in the work of settling the Greek refugees on the land. In the latest report of Hambros Bank it is stated that 1,909 new villages have been built, which include 16,845 completed houses and 31,905 in the course of construction. Further, it is pointed out that with regard to the services of the loan, the refugees are already becoming productive, and a certain amount of money which will naturally go towards the extra redemption has been repaid. A most illuminating feature of the country's improving situation is the rapid increase in the State revenues from duties which, from 3,712,421,000 drachmæ in 1923-4, rose to 4,832,075,000 drachmæ in 1924-5. With a view to meeting increased expenditure on the many productive undertakings which the Government is carrying out, the first reading of a Bill to double the surtax of 10 per cent. on direct and indirect taxation has been passed by the Greek Chamber. Greece is, in short, concentrating her energies at the present time on the question of the country's economic progress, and the improvement of the drachma is a reflection of the good work that has already been accomplished, and at the same time a promise of good augury for the future.

Yugoslav Port Development.

The interesting news is forthcoming that the Yugoslav Government has decided on the immediate development of the port of Sibenik, the intention being to make the port Yugoslavia's chief naval base in the Adriatic. At the present time Sibenik is handicapped by the lack of communications with the interior, but this is in process of being remedied, as work has long been in progress on a broad-gauge line through Gracac and Knin, which will link up Sibenik with the broad-gauge system of Northern Yugoslavia. Further railway developments will no doubt be called for in the near future, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that M. Varsovitch, in a recent article in a Yugoslav journal, in outlining the railway programme necessary for the completion of the narrow-gauge system of Yugoslavia, included the connection of a railway in Western Bosnia with Sibenik.

British Films Required.

With the psychological aspect of the amazing receptions that large sections of the British nation now seem prepared to give to every well-known film actor who visits this country I am not concerned. Of greater importance is the light these popular demonstrations throw on the position of the film industry and, in particular, on Great Britain's part in it. These American film actors are acclaimed simply because British audiences see very little but American films, the fact being that the British film industry, if not moribund, has not proved equal to withstanding foreign competition. But if we are unable to hold

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our own in the home market, it is decidedly impossible to look for success overseas. And yet the need for British films abroad is urgent, for there is no question that the film can be, and is, a most useful accessory to trade development. It is high time that a really determined attempt should be made to establish the British industry on a firm footing, but if there is to be a real prospect of success, the Government will have to play its part by imposing a heavy duty on imported films. They are, after all, luxuries, and in these times expenditure on the non-essentials must be curtailed. Perhaps this is one of the surprises which Mr. Churchill has in store for us next week.

Indian Railway Contracts.

In recent months quite a number of orders for material for the Indian railways have been placed in Germany, and this fact has not unnaturally given rise to a certain amount of disquiet in industrial centres, where it is looked upon as merely another sign of the increasing competition that had long been foreseen was inevitable. In point of actual fact, the orders that have gone to Germany form only a small part of India's total orders, but it is difficult to derive much comfort on that score, since the reason for her success has been that she is able to underquote our manufacturers to a very notable extent, and the conditions here scarcely suggest the possibility that our manufacturers will be able to quote much lower prices in the near future. But if the relative cost of production is a handicap, the British manufacturer has some very decided assets to set against it, such as the high quality of British goods and the regularity of delivery. Recently, in the case of a Near Eastern country, an order went to Great Britain solely because early delivery was guaranteed.

India and Wembley.

It is only incidentally that one hears of the actual results of the various pavilions at Wembley last year. Yet all references to the subject have indicated highly satisfactory results, and I feel strongly that one of the best possible incentives to participate in a second exhibition would have been an advertising campaign showing exactly what the various sections realised from taking part last year. India is a case in point. Last year the Indian Pavilion could not be considered an adequate representation of the country, and this time the Government of India is not officially participating, and the British Empire Exhibition is responsible for the Indian exhibits. But the Indian section was a great financial success, sales in the pavilion, apart from orders given to exhibitors, amounting to over £175,000, while it is stated that increasing trade is being done in a number of commodities, such as metal work, timber, etc., as a result of the Exhibition. Surely it is reasonable to assume that if Indian traders as a whole realised the value of Wembley there would have been such a demand for space that the present pavilion would have had to be enlarged.

Commentator.

NOTES FROM TURKEY.

Government Aid for Industry.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, April 14.

With a view to encourage industry in Turkey, the Grand National Assembly has voted a new law concerning the establishment of sugar refineries. This law affords excellent privileges to those wishing to take advantage of this industry, and will incidentally contribute considerably to easing the very high cost of living in Turkey. The State will grant concessions to companies having the necessary capital for exploitation, and will exempt from taxes all employees engaged in these sugar factories. Other facilities and advantages are offered, which will, no doubt, have the desired effect of persuading hesitating companies to establish factories in Turkey.

The Grand Bazaar.

The Grand Bazaar, which is one of the most important of Constantinople's historical sights, is menaced with ruin if very necessary repairs are not immediately undertaken. This exceedingly interesting curiosity, which invariably figures on the list of visits of all tourists, has for some time given serious cause for worry by the crumbling away of its decorated roofs and archways as a result of penetrating rain and subsequent dampness. The question of raising funds for its reparation presents, however, a complication of difficulties to the Commission for the Preservation of Historical Objects. Thirty years ago the repairs to the damages caused by the earthquake were paid for by the proprietors of the two thousand shops which the Grand Bazaar comprises, and some such scheme is being discussed to meet the present circumstances. Should a general meeting of these two thousand shopkeepers be considered desirable to discuss the important question regarding the raising of funds, anyone having visited the bazaars of Stamboul will have no difficulty in imagining the result of a debate attended by these persuasive and loquacious vendors of inestimable bargains and bronze antiques, which often exasperatingly bear the inscription "Made in Birmingham."

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PERSIAN RAILWAY PROJECTS.

A Survey.

(From a Correspondent.)

For a number of years I was engaged in geographical and geological investigations in Persia, and it fell to me to examine and report upon the possibility of repairing the roads between different towns at a moderate cost, so that they might be made available for vehicular communication. Thus I had a unique opportunity of studying the Persian road question more or less in detail, and of determining tracks which might be considered suitable for the construction of railways, and I propose here briefly to review the story of railway concessions in Persia, detailing the nature of the terrain on which it has from time to time been proposed to construct lines.

The territory of Persia is about three times the size of France, and has a population of about fifteen millions, mostly of Persian and Turko-Tartar origin. The exports are wool, cotton, carpets, shawls, skins, rice, silk, tobacco, opium, dried fruits, etc., while the imports consist of all kinds of manufactured articles, sugar, tea, petroleum, machinery, etc. The country is, of course, agricultural, but as the table-land during half the year or more has practically no rainfall, agriculture is dependent on artificial irrigation, and much fertile land in the plains must remain uncultivated, as there is not sufficient accessible water for irrigation. I say accessible, because in the spring most of the water of the rivers and mountain streams remains unused, and flows either into the sea or is lost in the saline deserts of Central Persia. The irrigation system could be greatly improved, so as at least to double the amount of cultivated land; but the Persians have neither the technical knowledge nor the necessary capital.

Railways develop the countries which they traverse, as many products, like minerals, can be exploited only when cheap means of communication are at hand. Persia contains minerals like iron, copper, lead, antimony, nickel, coals, petroleum, etc., but with the exception of the oilfields and the utilisation on a small scale of some copper, lead, sulphur, and coal mines, the work of exploitation has still to be begun, and I am convinced that only railway communications can bring life into the mining industry.

Enzeli-Bushire.

When Nazr-Ed-Din Shah visited Europe for the first time in 1873 a concession was given for a railway from Enzeli-Resht, on the Caspian Sea, via Teheran, Isapahan, and Shiraz, to Bushire, on the Persian Gulf; but the Russian Government contrived to have this concession annulled, and later on constructed a road from Enzeli to Teheran.

From the port of Enzeli to Resht, and to the foot of the Elburz Mountains, no serious difficulties would be encountered in railway construction; more difficult would be the part between the plain of Gilan and along the bank of the Sefidrud River as far as the small town of Menjil and the valley of the Shahrud River. From this valley up to the Iranian table-land and the plains of Kazvin the construction would meet with very great technical difficulties, on account of the considerable rise of ground and the narrowness of the Yuzbash-tchai valley. From Kazvin to Teheran is plain ground.

From Teheran to Kom the road would have to round a mountain-range and cross the Rude-Shur River, which in the spring rises very high, and has a strong current; but from Kom to Kashan is plain ground, and between Kashan and Ispahan only the hilly valley of Natanz presents somewhat more difficult ground. Between Ispahan and the Shiraz plain there would be no serious obstacles.

The most difficult part of the whole line would be that between the plain of Shiraz and the Dashtistan, or lowlands of the Persian Gulf; here between Kazrun and Erjan the mountain passes are exceedingly difficult, but perhaps the problems might be solved by a diversion in the direction of Feruzabad.

The most fertile and productive region that this line would pass through comprises the plains of Gilan, Kazvin, Teheran, Natanz, Ispahan, and Shiraz.

Julfa-Tabriz.

About the year 1874 the Russian General Falkenhagen obtained a concession for a railway from Julfa, on the Caucasian frontier, to Tabriz, the capital of the province of Azerbaijan. At first a road was constructed between these two points, able to take rails if it were ever decided to lay a railway, as was done during the late War.

From Tabriz the railway now in use could be continued without much difficulty to Salmas, Khoi, and Urmiah, on the one side of Lake Urmiah, and to Maragha and Sauj-Bulak on the other. All these places are well populated, and produce a considerable quantity of merchandise for export to Russia.

A railway track from Tabriz to Maragha could also be continued via Sainkaleh and Bidjar as far as Hamadan, passing through more or less fertile country, though some difficulties would be met with south of Sainkaleh, and it would be necessary to bridge the Kizil-Uzen River.

Tabriz-Teheran.

The Russian Government intended to build a road between the above towns, and later on a railway, but their project did not materialise, as it was realised that since the line would be running parallel to the Caucasian frontier, it could have only a local interest. Instead of the construction of this railway road, the Russian Government turned its attention to the improvement of the harbour of Enzeli, which was of much more importance for the Russian trade.

Some technical difficulties could be expected on this line only at the pass of Shibly, the tract of land between the Tikmedasht plain and Mianeh, and at the Kaflan-kuh mountain, where the Mianeh River joins the Kizil-Uzen. The remainder of the country as far as Kazvin is more or less level, and at Kazvin the road would join that from Resht to Teheran.

With the exception of the region between the Kaflan-kuh mountain and the environs of the town of Zenjan, this line would pass more or less populated and well cultivated country, and between Kazvin and Teheran the coal mines of Ali-yek, Tchemburek, Khiv, Ardaheb, etc., situated in the hills near the road, would be of great importance.

Teheran-Meshed.

The construction of this line would meet only in two places some serious technical difficulties of

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terrain : one on the rise from the plain of Semnan to that of Damghan, and the second between Nishapur and Meshed. This line would pass the well-cultivated plains of Veranim, Khar, Kumish, Shahrud-Bostam, Sabzevar, and Nishapur.

Baghdad-Nushki.

Soon after England and Russia had divided Persia into spheres of interest, the principal concessionaires of the Baghdad Railway decided to link up this line with the Indian system by constructing a railway from Baghdad via Kermanshah, Hamadan, Ispahan, Yezd, Kerman, Baur, and Sainduk to Nushki in Baluchistan.

The construction of this line would meet with considerable technical difficulties at the rise of ground between Kasri-Shirin and Kirind, on the road between Baghdad and Kermanshah, and also the hilly part from the last-named place as far as Hamadan, whereas from Hamadan the line could follow the valleys of Sultanabad, Mahallat, Ispahan, Nayin, Yezd, Kerman, and Baur, where the ground is more or less level.

Along the whole track between Baghdad and Bam the country is more or less populated and cultivated, and there are coal mines in the environs of Kerman, also somewhere about Nehavend, between Kermanshah and Hamadan.

(To be concluded.)

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ.

Poor Harvest Outlook.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended March 15 gives the following particulars :—

The rainfall recorded was 1.53 in., as compared with an average precipitation of 1.10 in., bringing the total season's rainfall to the end of January to 3.93 in., as against an average of 4.52 in.

The extraordinary cold spell continued into February, frost being recorded on eighteen nights of the month, a state of affairs never previously experienced in this month. The day temperatures, however, rose steadily and became normal for the time of year. The low night-time temperatures were inhibitive, however, of any rapid growth, and crops generally remained rather backward.

Unfortunately, the rain recorded above at Hinaidi was not general throughout the country, and in Northern Iraq only slight local showers fell. Lower Iraq also had little rain of any agricultural value. Rains fell generally in northern areas at the beginning of March.

The prices of wheat and barley dropped slightly with the advent of rains, but have since hardened. The prospects for the coming season's harvest, whilst not so bad as was feared at first, are not good.

In Northern Iraq the areas sown are estimated to be only 75 per cent. of normal, and owing to the high price of wheat a greater area than usual is under barley. The rains of early March have been very beneficial to the crop, and the area sown should, in the absence of serious damage from locusts or pest, mature a good crop.

In Middle Iraq the area sown is estimated at 80 per cent. of normal. Again there is a larger proportion of barley than usual, and, owing to the absolute absence of fodder, a good deal of this will be cut for feeding to animals. In normal years this is possible without affecting the area matured, but this year, owing to the backward state of the crop, it is doubtful whether areas so cut back will mature.

In Lower Iraq the areas sown are believed to be normal, but the condition is backward, and should normal weather conditions now supervene the result will be a harvest of imperfectly matured, shrivelled grain.

The factor which is most important to the agriculture of the country generally is the poor condition of live-stock. This is affecting every agricultural activity. In the dry farming areas of the north, ploughing for 1926 cereals is much less than usual and below the usual standard. In Middle Iraq the weakness of draft animals is affecting the areas for summer cultivation, and demands for cotton seed are not coming in so early as usual. It is believed that cotton-sowing generally will be late.

The sheep-owning tribes throughout the country have lost from 40 per cent. to 60 per cent. of their flocks, and the condition of the survivors is still pitiable, though desert grasses are at last beginning to appear.

The anti-locust work in Northern Iraq has progressed fairly satisfactorily. The scarcity of food has caused birds to eat greater quantities of eggs than usual. During the period under report about 20 tons of eggs have been bought by the Department, and in addition about 5,000 acres of known breeding grounds have been ploughed over. The locust-breeding grounds in the Samarrah, Tekrit, Qizil-Robat, Khaniqin, Kifri, and Kirkuk areas have been located, and work is in progress there in addition to that being done in the Mosul area.

The chief difficulties are experienced in the non-cultivated lands. Here such population as exists is pastoral, and having no crops cannot be interested in the work. It has been necessary to make payment in cash for eggs, and the ploughing necessary could only be effected by feeding the plough animals at Government expense. Locusts are expected to hatch during the third week in March, and arrangements are now in progress for dealing with the actual swarms.

The usual seasonal activities of transplanting in orchards have been a little later than usual, but have been satisfactorily carried out. A large number of trees, chiefly Eucalyptus and Shisham, have been issued by the Department, and most of the larger towns are now actively seeking to beautify and shade their principal streets by tree planting.

The sowing of summer vegetables from seedlings forced in the cultivators' houses has commenced generally.

The July-February exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,046 tons, and of barley 27,867 tons, total 28,913 tons, as compared with 149,811 tons exported during the same period last year. The August-February exports of dates from Iraq were 140,414 tons, valued at Rs. 1,82,28,954, as compared with 116,428 tons, valued at Rs. 1,47,60,923, for the corresponding season last year.

The July-February exports of wool from Iraq were 15,734 tons, as compared with 4,277 tons exported during the same period last year.

The Commission appointed by the Egyptian Government to examine and report on the western frontier question returned to Cairo last Friday.

A treaty between Czechoslovakia and Roumania was signed at Bucharest last Thursday. It relates to frontier intercourse between the two States and the legal conditions affecting property in the frontier zone.

Last Sunday, being the Greek Easter, the Holy Synod in Athens issued an Encyclical to working-men warning them against Communistic foreign propaganda directed against Christianity and seeking to identify religion with Capitalism.

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SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

The following particulars regarding the cultivation of gum arabic in the Sudan are taken from the current issue of the *Journal of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce*:—

The Acacia Verek grows in many districts of varying climatic conditions, and yields therefore many varieties. The principal districts are:—

1. The Western District, or the Provinces of Kordofan, Darfur, and the White Nile, includes the following localities:—

(a) Dar Hamar and Nahud, south-west of El Obeid, are perhaps the chief gum-producing localities in the Sudan. The forests being well away from railhead, were not developed until after the railway extension to El Obeid was completed in 1912. The climate is very hot and dry during the summer months, and there are generally heavy rains in the autumn, but there is an absence of land owing to the sandy nature of the soil. The gardens are owned and cultivated by the Hamar Arabs, and the gum may be described as of medium-sized pieces of a light amber colour.

(b) Dar Hamid, north of El Obeid, is a vast stretch of land of huge forests, which are cultivated by the Kawahla, Shamabla, Gawama, and Ahamda Arabs. The climate and general formation of the land resemble those of Dar Hamar and Nahud, but the gum is considered of better quality, owing possibly to the forests having been under cultivation for a longer period. It is of a beautiful light amber colour.

(c) Dar El Rih, north-west of El Obeid and west of Dar Hamid, is inhabited by the Meganin (or foolish) Arabs, and has a similar climate to Dar Hamid.

(d) Tai'ara and Um Dam, east of El Obeid, is near El Dueim, the principal gum market before the opening of the railway line to El Obeid, and contains the oldest gardens in the country. The heat is more moderate than at El Obeid, and the trees yield a fine quality of gum. The gardens are owned and cultivated chiefly by the Gawama Arabs.

2. The Eastern District, or the Province of Kassala, grows the Hashab tree in the following localities:—

(a) Gedaref, south of Kassala, has huge forests of hashab and talh on the River Atbara, which yield a gum of a reddish colour. The recent extension of the railways is expected to develop the trade very rapidly.

(b) Mafaza, south of Gedaref, on the River Rahad, has a similar climate, and the gum is of big-sized pieces of a decidedly reddish colour. The crop is not large.

3. The Gezireh District, or the Province of Sennar, has large hashab and talh forests, but a small yield owing to the excessive rains and dampness, which affect the exudation considerably.

The annual crop is influenced greatly by climatic conditions, such as little rain, cold weather, and early Kharif. Generally a good crop may be said to depend on: 1. Abundant rains about July or August. 2. A subsequent dry and hot season. 3. Good tapping and the clearance of small dead branches from the trees.

The quantity of arrivals depends on good prices, sufficient camel transport, and abundance of drinking water and water melons in the interior. Before tapping commences in Northern Darfur, the native must see that melons are plentiful, as otherwise the district is waterless. In the years of bad melon crops some of the gum localities are uninhabited, as the natives go to the neighbourhood of wells, so that the trees remain untapped and the gum lost. It should be noted, however, that when trees are not tapped for a year they yield more gum during the following season. The melon crop does not depend on abundant but on regular rains; too much rain destroys the crop, and the melons are eaten up by worms. In the years of good crops the melons are gathered, placed in a heap and covered, thus providing a reserve of drinking water for the native and his animals; and enabling the trees to be tapped regularly and the gum gathered and transported to market.

INDIA'S INCREASING EXPORTS.

The trade returns of British India for February showed, as compared with the preceding month, a large increase in the value of exports, with a decrease in imports and re-exports. The exports of Indian produce and manufactures surpassed even the record figure of Rs. 40,55 lakhs in March, 1924, and constituted a fresh record at Rs. 42,95 lakhs, or Rs. 3,91 lakhs higher than the figure in the preceding month. The value of the imports of private merchandise fell from Rs. 24,34 lakhs in January to Rs. 18,78 lakhs, and re-exports decreased by Rs. 39 lakhs to Rs. 68 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise and treasure, the visible balance of trade was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 12,55 lakhs in February, as compared with Rs. 5,86 lakhs in January, and Rs. 13,78 lakhs a year ago. During the eleven months ending February, the visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure was Rs. 54,81 lakhs in favour of India, as compared with Rs. 77,08 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The balance of the remittances of funds in February, 1925, was minus Rs. 1,88 lakhs.

The share of the United Kingdom in imports fell from 59 per cent. in February, 1924, to 55 per cent. in February, 1925, and in exports from 19 to 15 per cent. The shares of Germany, Japan, and the United States in February, 1925, were, respectively, 7, 6, and 9 per cent. under imports and 7, 23, and 8 per cent. under exports.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British possessions during February amounted, respectively, to 582,000 and 775,000, as against 652,000 and 747,000 in January and 594,000 and 719,000 a year ago. The tonnage entered into and cleared from British India during the eleven months April, 1924, to February, 1925, was 6,349,000 and 7,705,000 respectively, as compared with 6,136,000 and 7,163,000 in the same period last year.

Mr. Hugh Fraser, O.B.E., has been appointed the Central Government Representative, Gezira Irrigation Works, in succession to Captain E. C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.

The pleasure steamer Greyhound, for many years on the Blackpool, Morecambe, and North Wales services, and since 1923 on the Belfast-Bangor service, was sold on Saturday to the Turkish Government for service between Constantinople and the Princess Islands in the Sea of Marmora.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Shipping Intelligence.

INCREASING INDIA-AVONMOUTH SERVICE.

It is stated that liner traffic between India and Avonmouth is rapidly increasing, and it is hoped shortly to develop a monthly service. In place of casual arrivals with small parcels of cargo, there have recently been fairly regular steamers with much more tonnage for discharge at Bristol, while, occasionally, direct arrivals have disembarked passengers.

The Bibby liner Dorsetshire is shortly due at Avonmouth from Rangoon, to be followed by the Henderson liner Kemmendine, while it is probable that the latter will land passengers. Two other Henderson liners are to load for Avonmouth in July and August, while the Yorkshire and Herefordshire, of the Bibby Line, will also bring cargo to Avonmouth this summer.

In addition to these homeward liners, three are to load cargo at Avonmouth for India and intermediate ports. The first will be the Henderson liner Kemmendine, for Port Said, Suez, and Rangoon, at the end of May, to be followed by the Yorkshire and Herefordshire, of the Bibby Line, for Marseilles, Port Said, Port Sudan, Colombo and Rangoon, the former August-September loading and the latter September-October.

NEW ELLERMAN LINES STEAMER.

The launch took place recently, from the Wear shipyard of Messrs. William Gray and Co., Ltd., Sunderland, of the finely modelled steamer City of Delhi, which has been built for the Ellerman Lines, Ltd.

The main dimensions of the vessel are: Length overall, 469 ft.; breadth, extreme, 58 ft. 7 in.; and depth moulded to upper deck, 34 ft. 9 in., with a dead-weight of about 12,000 tons.

The approximate gross tonnage is 7,600.

The double-bottom tanks are arranged for the carriage of oil fuel, and steam pipes are fitted round the tank suctions to liquify the heavy oil.

The vessel is of the two-deck type, with long poop and combined bridge and forecastle. Up-to-date arrangements are provided for handling cargo, 15 winches and 18 derricks being fitted for this purpose. A heavy derrick is also provided to lift 45 tons.

The vessel is to be installed with electric light throughout. The Central Marine Engine Works will supply engines of the balanced quadruple surface condensing type, having four cylinders and four large multitubular boilers.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI viâ Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDA, April 28. *CIRCASSIA, June 12.
*ELYSIA, May 29. *OLYMPIA, June 26.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakand for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 6).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 24); s.s. Manva for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 25).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunedin for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 24).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, May 1); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Johnstone Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 2); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, May 5).

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The official report on the conditions of the crops in Egypt in March says:—

Cotton.—Winds and slight rains in the northern parts of the Delta have had practically no effect on the crop, and weather was on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient. The crop is a little earlier than last year, and field work is being carried out under favourable weather conditions to the growth, which is satisfactory. Slight attacks of cut-worm, borer, sore-shin, and aphis are reported from various localities, but have caused no important damage. In Lower Egypt it is reported that most of the cotton area this year is under Sakellaridis, owing to its comparatively high price in the market.

The cotton seed Takawi distributed this season by this Ministry is as follows:—(1) Seed propagated from selected Domains' seed—Sakel. 8,500 ardebs. Seed propagated from selected Ministry's seed—Ashmouni Malaki 3,200 ardebs, distributed to large cultivators under supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture technical staff.

(2) Seed selected from good crops of last year and distributed to small cultivators on credit:—Sakellaridis, 55,400 ardebs; Upper Egypt Cotton, 47,650 ardebs.

Wheat.—Weather was favourable and water supply sufficient. In Lower Egypt the crop is in ear in practically all parts, whereas in Upper Egypt the crop is maturing. Slight attacks of rust, smut, *Pseudomonas tritici*, and eel-worm were reported. The yield is expected to be normal.

Barley.—Harvesting started in the southern parts of Upper Egypt. In Lower and Middle Egypt the crop is maturing, and harvesting is expected to begin in April. Slight attacks of rust and smut were noticed in various localities, but caused unimportant damage. The yield is normal.

Flax.—The crop is maturing, and harvesting is expected in the first days of April. The condition of the crop is normal.

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended April 18 states :—

This market is usually slow in getting into its stride after holidays, and in times of slackness such as the present the tendency is apt to be accentuated. The past week, therefore, was not expected to produce anything of either interest or importance, and such has proved to be the case.

The conference of all sections of the industry is to be resumed on Wednesday next, but tangible results must not be expected yet.

The figures of exports for the month of March which are given below appear very satisfactory in comparison with last year, but, as we have often had occasion to point out, they represent the result of transactions entered into many weeks previously.

Yarn.—Only a limited business has transpired in this section, and there are indications that even the present reduced output of American counts is not being cleared. Quotations therefore naturally exhibit weakness. As regards Egyptian yarns the lower price for raw cotton appears to have brought about a certain amount of inquiry, and the position seems a little more hopeful. Shipments of yarn during March were 17,853,400 lb., as against 15,997,900 lb. in February and 13,172,000 lb. in March of last year.

Cloth.—None of the foreign markets has shown any activity worthy of note during the past week. Such sales as have taken place have usually been for small lots. Generally speaking, a poor and uninteresting week has passed. Shipments of cloth for March were 416,619,800 sq. yd., as compared with 422,264,000 sq. yd. in February and 353,983,100 sq. yd. in March of last year.

Raw Cotton.—As regards American cotton the experience of recent weeks has been repeated. Quotations keep very steady, there being no special feature to affect them one way or the other. Spot sales in Liverpool have been only small. Fluctuations in Egyptian have not been so wide as recently, but the position here is still very obscure. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 13.39; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 30.85.

MARKET FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IN PERSIA.

There is a slowly growing demand in Persia for electrical attachments, especially table or extension lamps, to be used in homes and offices. Although in use along the Persian Gulf, having been left there by British military forces, such articles cannot be found in the interior of Persia (says an American Consular report).

A good market for electric fans is found in those parts of Persia where electric current is available. Practically all of the electric fans in Persia, both ceiling and desk types, are of American manufacture. They would sell best in cities having 24-hour electric service, but even where current is available only at night, there should be a limited sale. Electric irons and vacuum cleaners are not in demand, however, because of the abundance of domestic servants.

The scarcity of fuel makes current generally expensive in Persia. It costs 6d. per lamp per day in Teheran and Resht, and is usually available for only a few hours each day. This condition discourages the general use of electric radiators, and it is not believed that they could be sold to any great extent. The consumption of electricity in cities is, however, slowly increasing, and wealthy landowners are beginning to buy self-contained lighting outfits for their homes, gardens, and country estates. Electric motors attached to household appliances should be of the universal type.

BAUXITE.

"Bauxite and Aluminium" is the title of one of the latest of a series of monographs on mineral resources issued by the Imperial Institute, which is doing such good work in connection with the supply of information regarding minerals under the direction of the Committee on Mineral Resources. The bauxite monograph by Mr. W. G. Rumbold is particularly timely, as special attention is now being paid to this ore. Hitherto used mainly as the ore, for commercial purposes, of aluminium, bauxite is now receiving attention in other directions. It is used for making artificial abrasives and bauxite brick, and for mineral oil refining, but recent developments in its use in the preparation of certain quick-setting plasters and cements can hardly fail to stimulate a considerable demand for the rock. Twenty-five years ago the only countries producing bauxite were the United States, France, and Ireland; to-day the producing countries include Italy, Yugoslavia, and Roumania. British Guiana produces as much as France did nine years ago, but the latter's production is now three times her former total. At least one other country in the Near East is likely to have its attention turned shortly to bauxite.

FURTHER YUGOSLAV RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS.

The British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade reports that, according to the local Press, a project for doubling the single line railways Belgrade-Zagreb and Belgrade-Skoplje (Uskub) has come up for discussion, the necessary survey work having been carried out. It is also reported that the normal gauge line Veles (Koprulu)-Stip (Istib), which was completed during 1924, is to be extended up to Kocana (Kotchana), and it is hoped to finish this section by October next.

A further piece of railway construction projected in this year's programme is that of a line from Trebinje in Herzegovina via Niksitch to Podgoritza in Montenegro, which would connect with the line to be built from Podgoritza to Plavnitza.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25 22½	249–253
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	294–298
Berlin	Marks to £	20 43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25 22½	24.75–24.77
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{27}{32}$ 1s. 5$\frac{29}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.90–95.00
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,055–1,060
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344–347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1s. 5$\frac{27}{32}$-1s. 5$\frac{29}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	915–930
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.78¾-4.78⅞
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	91.7 –91.85
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	161¼-161½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	116⅞-117
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	657*
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	33.95-34.05
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.80-24.90

*Sellers.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

G.I.P. Railway.

A circular issued to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway stockholders states that the company's contract with Government for working the Great Indian Peninsula Railway terminates on June 30, 1925, and on that date the company will hand over the undertaking to the Secretary for India, who will pay to the company the amount of the Three per Cent. Guaranteed stock for distribution to the stockholders. The company's registers will be finally closed on June 16, after which no transfer will be accepted for registration.

Indo-European Telegraph.

The report of the Indo-European Telegraph Company for 1924 states that the revenue amounted to £294,371, an increase of £96,856 compared with the previous year. The expenses totalled £182,556, an increase of £26,905, leaving a balance of £111,815, plus £22,854 brought forward. The directors have provided £50,000 in writing down the expenditure on the reconstruction of the line in Russia and Poland and £5,000 in writing down the cost of the Persian section of the line, and propose to declare a dividend of £1 2s. 6d. per share, making 7 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 7s. 6d. per share, both free of tax. They also propose to hand over £10,000 to the trustees of the retirement trust fund and to allocate £10,000 to the equalisation of dividends fund, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £18,789.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at February 28, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes :—Banking Department.—Liabilities : Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund : Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current, deposit and other accounts, £E14,809,188; Egyptian Government, £E19,906,410; Sudan Government, £E268,095; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,576,302; bankers accounts, £E617,779; cheques and bills payable, £E205,678; sundry other accounts, £E636,350—£E43,309,177. Assets : Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E25,698,677; sundry securities, £E262,917; advances on merchandise, £E1,279,379; advances on securities, £E2,051,841; advances otherwise secured £E390,100; sundry other advances, £E382,954; bills of exchange, £E4,604,739; local bills discounted, £E267,692; buildings and furniture, £E226,598; money at call and at short notice, £E2,271,750; bankers' accounts, £E4,136,185; sundry other accounts, £E59,564. Cash : Notes, £E1,211,687; gold, £E34,115; silver, nickel, etc., £E430,979-£E1,676,781—£E43,309,177. Issue Department : — Notes issued : £E38,200,000 — £E38,200,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E15,760,424—£E19,100,000. Securities : Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,262; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E18,679,738, £E19,100,000—£E38,200,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Prague Accumulator Co. are increasing their capital from Kc. 6,000,000 to Kc. 7,500,000.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Company and the Rangoon Oil Company for March was 58,556 barrels.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from April 4 to April 10 amounted to 3,960,000 francs, as compared with 3,540,000 francs.

The Unie Printing and Lithographic Co., Prague, have declared a dividend of Kc. 50 per share (12½ per cent.), the same as for the past four years.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended April 10 was :—Gemsah, 25 tons (last week 19 tons); Hurghada, 3,612 tons (last week 3,215 tons).

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended March 21 amounted to Rs.9,69,656, making the total for the year to date Rs.4,79,06,711.

Egyptian Unified Bonds.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due May 1. Lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office, 5-6, Lombard Street, E.C.

The directors of Egyptian Markets, Ltd., recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent. Added to the interim distribution of 5 per cent., this gives a total of 15 per cent. for the year.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended March 31 amounted to £E8,428, making the total for the year £E354,930, as against £E330,022 for the previous twelve months.

At a directors meeting of the Poldina Hut (Poldi Steel Co.) it was decided to hold the annual general meeting on May 5, and to propose payment of a dividend of Kc. 16 per share (4 per cent.). No dividend has previously been paid since 1921. The net profits for the year are Kc. 2,573,718, to which is added a sum of Kc. 5,147,945 brought forward from 1923, so that a total of Kc. 7,721,663 is available for dividend.

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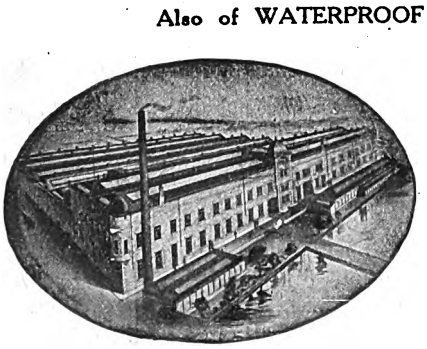
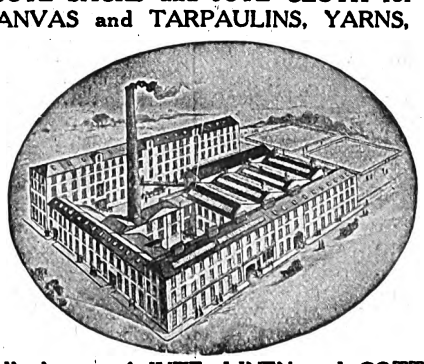
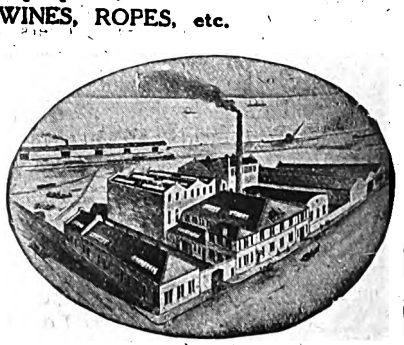

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COMPANY MEETING.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF THE NEAR EAST.

The third annual general meeting of the Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., was held on April 17, at the offices, 4, London Wall Buildings, E.C., Mr. C. H. D. Moberly (managing director) presiding.

The Chairman said: On behalf of the board, I have to apologise for and to regret the absence of our co-directors, Messrs. Empedocles, Petrocochino and Merlin, who are detained by their duties in Greece.

The past year has been the second year of the bank's working, and the profits for that period amounted to £10,239 11s. 7d., as against £6,879 7s. 3d. for the first year. The capital has increased during the past year from £140,100 to £175,935 on December 31 last. You will observe that deposits have decreased considerably. This decrease is due mainly to withdrawal of moneys for employment in the Near East, where business has improved, but I regret that this does not apply to Constantinople, where things are still unsettled. The reconstruction loans issued during the last half of the year, especially the Greek Refugee loan, also attracted some of our depositors as good investments. The variations in the remaining items do not call for any special remark, and are due to the increase in our business.

Owing to our having changed our premises, the past year's profits had to bear a double rental for eight months, and it was further necessary to write off the cost of the fixtures, etc., in our old premises. £25,000 of the increase in capital was only received during the last two months of the year, and, therefore, did not earn its full proportion of profit.

Business at our Constantinople branch has continued to be restricted, but we hope that at our next meeting we may be able to report better progress there. With regard to the Near East generally, trade appears to be improving, and your directors view the future with every confidence.

I now beg to propose: "That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1924, be received and adopted, and that a final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum be paid on the shares of the company on or after April 18, 1925."

Mr. D. J. Cassavetti seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the retiring directors and the auditors having been re-elected, the proceedings terminated.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Passenger Engines.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of thirty five 4-4-2 type express passenger engines and tenders. May 16.

School Furniture.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of large quantities of school furniture, such as desks, cupboards, tables, bedsteads, iron safes, copper utensils, etc., required for the schools during the school year 1925-1926. June 6.

Paper, etc.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza Mudiriya, invites tenders for the supply of paper and chemicals for photostat for 1925-26. June 10.

Paper.—The Survey of Egypt, Ministry of Finance, invites tenders for the supply of 100 reams of machine-made ledger paper, size 30½ in. by 40½ in., and 400 reams of similar paper size 22½ in. by 36½ in.—June 16.

Teak.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 400 cubic metres teak. June 30.

Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machinery for floating dock required for the Government Workshops, Bulâq. July 1.

Tin Solder.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for tin solder, 99.5 per cent. pure tin, 1,720 lbs.

Turkey.

Rollers.—Tenders are invited by the Department of Public Works, Turkey, for the supply of 36 steam and 10 horse-drawn rollers. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Threshing Machines, etc.—H.M. Consul-General at Salonika (Mr. F. E. Crow, C.M.G.) reports that he has been approached by an official of the Greek Refugee Colonisation Department with regard to obtaining quotations from British manufacturers for threshing machines, straw cutters, pressers, reaping machines, reapers and binders. (D.O.T.)

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A provisional commercial treaty has been arranged between Greece and Poland.

It is reported that a valuable coalfield has been discovered in Yugoslavia between Kraljewo and Raschka.

A provisional commercial treaty has been signed at Athens between Czecho-Slovakia and Greece.

The British Empire Exhibition is using a series of attractive poster stamps to advertise the attractions of the new Wembley.

The export of tobacco from Greece has been resumed on a large scale. The value of the tobacco exports for March is estimated at 268,000,000 drachmæ.

The area under grain in Roumania in 1924 was 3,172,102 hectares, and the total yield was 2,023,208 tons, which is sufficient to provide for home consumption.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended April 3 was:—Gemsah, 19 tons (last week, 26 tons); Hurghada, 3,215 tons (last week, 3,457 tons).

H.M. Representative at Belgrade reports that there are indications that a new General Customs Tariff may be promulgated at any time during the present month.

The date on which the regulation requiring certificates of origin to be produced in respect of all goods consigned to Turkey is to come into force has been postponed until May 1.

Egypt's imports for March amounted in value to £E4,590,601, as compared with £E4,080,303 in 1924, while the exports totalled £E6,865,149, as compared with £E4,835,023.

Minerva (Roumania) Oil.—During March 239 metres were drilled in four wells at Moreni and Runcu. The total production of oil, including that derived from Royalty Wells, was 832 tons.

The total exports of tea from Northern India to all ports in March, 1925, were 3,514,914 lbs., making the total from April 1, 1924, to March 31, 1925, 315,896,158 lbs., as compared with 313,199,750 lbs. in 1922-23.

Concessions have been obtained by the Banque de Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie in Beyrout for the installation of an electric power house at Aleppo to provide lighting, an electric tram-line, and also for the provision of a water supply for that city.

Contracts have been awarded to the Rheinmetal Fabrik of Dusseldorf for eight tank locomotives for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, five tank locomotives for the Eastern Bengal Railway, and one goods locomotive for the East Indian Railway.

A motor street-watering machine has been recently put into service by the Alexandria Municipality. The machine, which was constructed in the Alexandria Municipal workshops, and is mounted on a second-hand chassis, is said to be giving excellent results.

It is announced by the Government of Bengal that the construction of the Grand Trunk Canal has become a matter of urgency if inland waterway navigation is to be maintained with Calcutta. On account of financial stringency the execution of this project was held over last year.

It is reported that the Textile Co. of Corfu, which has a factory near Athens, is to establish a weaving and spinning mill at Podarades, a refugee colony between Athens and Kephissia, and is to build a power plant to operate the mill and also to supply the suburbs of Podarades, Amoroussi, and Kephissia with electric light.

A decision of the Roumanian Council of Ministers concerning the distribution of State contracts provides that all supplies required by the State and public authorities shall in future be ordered from industrial enterprises within the country, unless it be shown by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce that such orders cannot be executed in the country or can be more advantageously executed abroad.

A circular of the Greek Ministry of Health and Public Assistance, effective as from June 1, sets out the standards of purity to which flour imported into Greece must conform. First quality flour must contain not more than 0.12 per cent. acidity in sulphuric acid, not less than 26 per cent. wet gluten, not more than 0.60 per cent. ash, and not more than 13.5 per cent. moisture, and must have a reasonable flavour. Second quality flour must contain not more than 0.15 per cent. acidity in sulphuric acid, not less than 28 per cent. wet gluten, not more than 1 per cent. ash, and not more than 13.5 per cent. moisture; and must have a reasonable flavour.

The discussions at Warsaw on the subject of a commercial treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Poland have now resulted in agreement on all points. The signature of the treaty will take place on the arrival of Dr. Benes and Minister Nevak at Warsaw. The treaty is based upon the principle of the most-favoured nation, and contains also mutual Customs concessions in respect of certain classes of goods. At the same time an administrative agreement was reached on the subject of railway tariffs, by which mutual concessions will be made in the rates for the import and transit of important goods. Before the ratification of the definitive treaty a provisional treaty will be in force.

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Established 1839.

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Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 729—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925.

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"THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

The title of THE NEAR EAST will shortly be changed to THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. As the new title implies, increased attention will be paid in this journal to Indian affairs, and a special section will be devoted to their consideration.

The arrival in England of the Viceroy with the declared purpose of consultation with the Secretary of State marks an epoch in Indian political history, and is an earnest of the critical days ahead. In 1929 the Reform Scheme completes its term of probation; the question of its future is so complex that it is not too soon for a start to be made in the serious examination of the many issues involved, with a view to determining the soundest principles for the guidance of British policy.

It will be the object of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA to provide a forum for fuller discussion than has hitherto been possible in the British Press of India's problems, both political and economic. To this end communications will be published from correspondents in the chief centres in India; questions bearing on the development of a vast country of rival or antagonistic nationalities, creeds and castes will be dealt with judicially, and with knowledge; and every effort will be made to portray to the reading public Indian affairs as adequately as their importance demands.

The Indian section of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA will be under the direction of an Editor with special knowledge of the country.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Mr. Amery and the Arabs.

In an outspoken reply to an Arab deputation in Jerusalem the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who returns this week with Sir Samuel Hoare from their tour in Iraq and Palestine, gave the Arabs of the latter country much sound and practical advice The petition presented to him contained the stereotyped exaggeration to which the spokesmen of the Arab Executive have accustomed us. British policy, it was alleged, would, if continued, drive the country to the verge of ruin. It was overtaxed for the sake of an unnecessarily large Government staff, which was pursuing a Zionist policy detrimental to Arab political, national, and economic interests. Jewish immigration was introducing undesirable elements, and there was a Jewish predominance in the principal Government posts. Finally, the British Government was urged, as the Arabs were unable to remain peaceful under the present policy, "to abandon its futile experiment."

The "National Home."

Mr. Amery's reply, which has very rightly been telegraphed at considerable length to this country, will, it is to be hoped, give the Arabs furiously to think. After pointing out that the part of the Balfour Declaration referring to the interests of the existing population was just as important as any other part, he reminded the deputation that the Declaration had been considered and confirmed by successive British Governments and by all the members of the League of Nations, and added that he was sure, therefore, that the Arabs did not really think that Great Britain could change her policy. Taking the opportunity of a further explanation of the meaning of the Declaration, or rather of Great Britain's method of interpreting it, Mr. Amery said that it was not a question of subordinating the Arab language, culture, or population, or of making it in any way inferior to another element. Great Britain's object is to ensure that Palestine is a national home for the Arabs in every sense as fully as to give an opportunity to the Jews to make a national home for themselves. He continued:

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"The expression 'a national home for Jews' means nothing more than that the present existing Jewish communities should be able to fulfil their desire to live their own cultural life, to have an opportunity of development, and that this should be definitely recognised as a matter of right, not merely of sufferance."

Britain's Work in Palestine

Having thus cleared the ground, Mr. Amery proceeded to remind the Arabs of certain things that they had found it convenient to ignore. He had satisfied himself that the Palestine Government has devoted itself wholeheartedly to the welfare of the people of the country as a whole; it has neither promoted nor devoted the taxpayers' money to the formation of any Jewish settlement, but it has transferred Government land to Arab settlers. The state of security is far greater than it has ever been in the past, with the result that thousands of acres are now under cultivation that could not be tilled before; health measures have led to an increase of the Arab population; within the last few years nearly two hundred additional schools have been opened for Arab villagers, the money for which has been found by Arab and Jewish taxpayers: in the last five years 375 miles of roads connecting various villages, apart from main roads, have been constructed, to the advantage of Arab agriculturists. Since 1920 immigration had added fifty-three thousand to the Jewish population, but the Arabs had increased by eighty thousand in the same period, and under these conditions there can be no fear of the local populations being outnumbered by Jewish immigration. The increase in the country's prosperity was due in part to the capital wealth brought in by the Jews, and the policy being pursued, Mr. Amery believed, is one which will bring the greatest prosperity to the Arab population. The deputation's statement that the country had been deprived of representative institutions which existed in Turkish times compelled Mr. Amery to remind it of the bad advice to which the Arabs had listened in refusing to take advantage of Great Britain's several offers of wider powers of consultation and representation. The British Government was still anxious to secure the co-operation of the Arab population, but it was not prepared to treat this as a matter in which it was asking a favour of the Arabs. Mr. Amery expressed the hope that the Arabs would realise the mistaken attitude they had taken in the past, and concluded: "I would suggest that your future depends, not on concentrating on what I consider mistaken fears of dangers from the policy of the Government, but on concentrating on the development of your people, its education and progress, and interest in its own history."

The Sofia Outrage.

The work of liquidating the Sofia outrage or outrages is proceeding more or less smoothly. Too many people inside and outside Bulgaria have rushed into print and speech; only those whose nerves may well have been shaken by their ordeal in the old Cathedral can plead any excuse. To this latter category belong the spokesmen, if there were more than one, of the Bulgarian Government, who have been represented as implicating the Yugoslav Government in the crime. Any such charge, if made, would have been ridiculous; but there was clearly some misrepresentation somewhere, and it is satisfactory to find that the episode is regarded as closed. As precaution is better than denials, the Yugoslav Government will be well advised in removing Bulgarian exiles who have taken refuge in its country as far away as possible from the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier. Altogether inexcusable are the lucubrations of three touring Members of Parliament who, as a result of a stay for two or three days in Sofia, when they seem to have found the Bulgarian authorities and people too distracted to pay much attention to them, retaliated by giving publicity to the fantastic gossip or personal denunciation that they picked up in the streets of the unhappy capital. Nobody now believes that 6,000 people were arrested in Sofia in two days, nor that so many hundreds were executed in the same period that the firing parties kept up an incessant rattle of musketry. Some indiscriminate shooting was indulged in immediately after the Cathedral crime, but there does not seem to have been undue delay before the authorities recovered command of the situation. The people who have shown most wisdom are the Council of Ambassadors, who have sanctioned an increase of 10,000 men in the Bulgarian army. It is not clear, however, why these men should remain under arms only for a month or six weeks, as the period is hardly long enough to inspire the country with the sense of confidence and security that it needs.

King Boris.

The murderous attack on King Boris of Bulgaria was followed so closely by the outrage in one of the Sofia Cathedrals that public attention was inevitably distracted from the former to the more fatal crime. Nevertheless, the pluck and coolness which the King showed in a tight corner will have increased still more his already considerable popularity among a nation that respects and practises courage. This popularity of the King, there can be little doubt, is a great asset to the nation, and exercises its influence in many ways. In the face of a Cabinet under the domination of one or more masterful men, a constitutional monarch needs to be particularly endowed with tact and knowledge to be able to hold his own. These qualifications are possessed in a striking degree by King Boris. He knows his people, and is known of them, and this closeness of touch is gradually proving itself a steadying factor in the stormy history of Bulgarian politics.

INDIA.

Lord Reading's Task.

The Governor-General arrived in London last Thursday only a few minutes behind the schedule, having broken the "record" for the trip from Bombay. We wonder, by the way, whether the new "record" will be allowed to last for as many decades as its predecessor, or is the gradual speeding-up of India's national life destined to be reflected in her means of communication with the West? The reporters can scarcely have been surprised that Lord Reading should have refused to enlighten them on his views on pending political questions, but at least he disposed of one piece of gossip by making it plain that he has come home with the *animus revertendi*, and is not slipping out

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A Lecture on "INDIAN CODIFICATION: ITS MERITS AND DEMERITS" will be given by Prof. SIR FRANCIS DU PRE OLDFIELD (Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Manchester, formerly Puisne Judge of the Madras High Court), at the LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C.2), on WEDNESDAY, 6th MAY, 1925, at 5 p.m. The Chair will be taken by The Right Hon. Saiyyid Ameer-Ali, P.C., C.I.E., Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. A Syllabus may be obtained on application to the undersigned. ADMISSION FREE, WITHOUT TICKET.

EDWIN DELLER,
Academic Registrar.

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of an untenable position. Apart from that, we cannot expect to have any definite news for some little time. There are plenty of subjects for discussion, and when two eminent lawyers are about to meet in consultation neither is likely to commit himself publicly to a position which would render consultation difficult. The Muddiman Report is doubtless the main topic, and, as we have urged before, the Cabinet must pronounce on it in plain English as soon as possible: is the working of the Constitution to be facilitated, or is the advance of India to be accelerated on a slope which gets steeper and steeper?

Lord Meston on the Position.

An interesting discussion of this question appeared over Lord Meston's name on the day of Lord Reading's arrival. As everyone knows, Lord Meston was an early friend of the existing Constitution, and he stands by it still, while recognising that it has not yet had a fair trial. In his view Lord Reading's paramount duty is to persuade the Cabinet to be steadfast in the handling of this question, to stand by the decision of 1919, and make no further advance until Indian leaders show themselves qualified to use it. That is the view which we have put forward steadily in these columns. We do not know whether it is Lord Reading's view or not, but it is certainly in strict accordance with the Prime Minister's election pronouncements, and no member of the Cabinet has publicly dissented from it as far as we have seen. It is true that the present machinery has not always run smoothly in charge of men who were not always expert engineers. The remedy lies partly in adjusting the fittings, partly in a liberal use of the oil can, but mainly in finding engineers who are able and willing to learn.

The Troubles of the Sikhs.

The latest cables raise some hope that the wearisome trouble among the Sikhs is nearing its end. The question is essentially religious, and the introduction into it of political passion was a deplorable accident. If, then, it is true that the contending factions have agreed on the draft of a Bill to regulate the administration of their religious endowments, we may be confident that the Government will put no difficulties in the way of its passage into law. The danger remains of opposition, whether open or secret, from Hindus or Moslems. All three religions are affected by the question of regulating endowments, and the religious Right, which is sometimes in close relations with the political Left, may possibly endeavour to cripple a measure which, from their point of view, would constitute a dangerous precedent. Regulation of Sikh endowments to-day may mean interference with temples and mosques to-morrow, and places like Hardwar or Lucknow may try to exert influence on the decision of Lahore. We hope they will do nothing of the kind, or that, if they do, they will be defeated by the good sense of the Punjab, but there will be grounds for anxiety until the measure is actually on the Statute Book.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Bolshevism.

In one of Max Beerbohm's cartoons there is a representation of the present attitude of the Church and Army and Navy and so on—the established order—towards Bolshevism. I forget the exact inscription, but the artist is puzzled by the reasons which inhibit action against the monster. As a matter of fact, it was one of the weakest of the cartoons; and the measure of its merit can be gauged by the fact that it would assuredly have delighted the *Daily Mail*.

The atmosphere, consequent upon the Sofia explosion, is thick with anti-Bolshevist cries. Bolshevists are now everywhere, and the police are implored to search the roofs and floors and chimneys of public buildings wherein our notable men are congregated. Our only protection against these assassins is, in fact, to be found in Rothermere headlines! In other words, a considerable section of the Press has simply lost its head. Happily, people refuse to believe in all this bunkum: they themselves will know quite well what to do with a Bolshevist when they see one. I have no wish to trespass on the ground of my colleagues who deal with the Near Eastern sensation, but it may be pointed out—*pace* those journals which vividly compare the revolutionary chances in London and in Sofia—that whether a man here is a Government supporter or not, the Bolshevist has little chance with him. Naturally, we have our Bolshevists; but, if only the ignorant Press, which uses the word "Bolshevist" as formerly it used the word "Socialist," knew it, we always have had them, for in the simplest and most final analysis, Bolshevism is simply a product or result of Capitalism.

Bolshevism is a loathsome thing, but to make a bogey of it is merely to do what it most wants. Its prospect of even partial success in England is absolutely nil—that is, if the people of this country keep their heads and are not stampeded into foolish action by the crass stupidity of certain newspapers.

Wembley Redivivus.

The attempt to fix the name of "The British Empire Exhibition" upon the show at Wembley appears definitely to have failed, and efforts are now being made to make the exhibition a more popular, brightly coloured, frivolous entertainment than was the disaster of last year. Less endeavour has been indulged in at comprehensive representation and more at the stage effects of scenery. (It is all part, we suppose, of that psychology which cries for, or allows, the return of things like "Kismet," "Chu Chin Chow," or "Sumurun"). Canada, New Zealand, and Australia are all going in for the "diorama stunt," on the principle, presumably, that the eye may seize what the mind could not grasp.

It is something, at any rate, for the organisers to have recognised that the "imperial" note which was sounded last year was listened to, at least by London, with empty ears. They are not at all daunted by the experience of last year, and are more or less taking success for granted. But what must be remembered is that the King will open on May 9 not the British Empire Exhibition, but the Wembley Exhibition. One which will be more enjoyable there can be little doubt.

The Cup Final.

London during the week-end was possessed by the provincials, for all Yorkshire and Wales appeared to make the journey to Wembley to see the Cup Final between Sheffield United and Cardiff City. To those who know how in professional football players are bought and sold, as much as if they were honours in the party game of politics,

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it is amazing how local enthusiasm is created and maintained. For it is by the merest chance that the local player finds a place in his local professional team.

On Saturday, for instance, there was, I am told, but one Sheffield man on the field; and he was playing for Cardiff, look you! The "Welsh" side contained three Scottish and three Irish or English (I forget which) internationals, but since this eleven did actually boast of some Welshmen, it seems rather a pity that they did not win.

These provincial invasions undoubtedly do the Londoners good. I heard life-long Cockneys complaining that they could not understand the speech of the Northerners, and that all Welshmen looked alike to them. So much does London know of the rest of this island. As for the provincials, they come for the "sights." They neither hear nor say very much, but their eyes are constantly rolling with excitement. The Metropolis is to them a succession of spectacular wonders, and it is to be feared that what chiefly attracts them is of least account. Still, they do make Londoners realise how little is known of London by its inhabitants.

Unknown Artists.

Art galleries do not commonly create a sense of adventure, but there is any amount of excitement to be extracted from the ingenious exhibition which has been arranged at the Goupil Galleries, Regent Street; it has been styled "Works by Some Unknown and Less Known Artists." Absence of reputation provokes a refreshing frankness of attitude, and each critic can pick out what he feels to be best—instead of what he ought to feel to be best.

Here one can mention but a few names. One notices with interest, for example, works by John Mavrogordato—"Man with Accordion," "The "Green Huntsman," and "Nude." They are somewhat over stylised, but full of artifice. Then there are works by F. L. Harris, whose Near Eastern example—"Rabat, Morocco"—is, however, merely a capable reproduction. Names that are likely in the next few years to loom larger are J. L. Howard, Richard Murry, Gerald Osoky, Powys Evans, Cosmo Clark, Douglas England, Vera Ross, Sine MacKinnon, Madeline Wells, Bassett Wilson, M K. Rowles, Philip Hagreen, and the sculptor, Maurice Lambert.

There is one example of Indian work—Mukul Dey's "Night Singers." This representation of an old man and a woman with her child is well enough done, but it has not quite the exquisite delicacy of what is imagined here to be typically Indian craftsmanship.

Generally speaking, there is evidence in the work of these young artists of a definite harking back to older things for ideas—still life, conventional costumes, and so on.

Unpleasant Plays.

For several months now evidence has been increasing that the representation on the stage, or exact reproduction, of certain not too common practices in modern society is what the "artists" who conceive these things would call "a paying proposition." Pornography is too vague a term to apply to certain plays in vogue; but if one wants to know what in particular are such things as dope, conjugal infidelity, female inebriety, pre- and post-marital indiscretions, and the hectic life, one has choice of many London theatres.

Frankly, this sort of thing ought never to be allowed. We do not want prosecution, but persecution would be an exceedingly good thing. To talk of "art" in connection with the stuff that has recently been put on the London stage is so much rubbish: such "artists" do not want imprisoning, but something more traditional and out of keeping with the times, like stoning, or to be put in stocks, with eggs as rotten and as nauseating as are their fancies showering on them.

The Strand.

Daily, before our eyes, the Strand is becoming a respectable thoroughfare. Fast going are the days when it will be possible for music-hall comedians to invite us to go with them down this historic pass, masticating bananas. It is being widened out of recognition, and shortly, one imagines, it will be so spacious as to allow a double line of traffic to pass.

Architecturally, too, this street is to suffer the doom which other less important places have already endured. Erections have begun of the sort of thing—uniform in design and symmetrical in arrangement—by which we shall soon be passing with averted and memory-ful eyes. Thus do we cut the past from under our feet.

The Guard's Bell.

Another institution that had seemed eternal looks like disappearing soon—the guard's whistle. The Underground Company have started using bells instead of whistles. If this kind of thing spreads to the main lines there will be a protest at least on the part of schoolboys, in whose opinion it is positively indecent to start a train without the whistle and green flag of the guard. The change is all part, one supposes, of our "new music"; and this old instrument—it has been called "the most celebrated wind instrument in history"—will have to give place to one that is never in tune.

Village Industries.

It is heartening to find that something—more than mere words—is being done to stem the tide of the town against the country. The Ministry of Agriculture appears to be fully alive to the fact that such industries as those of the blacksmith, the wheelwright, and the saddler are in very serious danger of extinction. Two things have caused this peril—the industrial development, particularly the passing of the horse as a means of transport, and the migration of the workers from the villages to the towns.

The Ministry is now working with various county councils (of whom the Hertfordshire County Council seems to be the most energetic) with a view to reviving these village industries. Mechanical traction has, of course, revolutionised the outlook of the farrier and of the blacksmith, but a real effort is being made—at least in Bedfordshire and in Hertfordshire—to enable the forge to hold out against the motor garage and the general factory.

For the purpose of informing village artisans on the possibilities of utilising power and machinery, a Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau is being used. In the opinion of those with whom I have discussed the matter, this body can just save the situation. Superficially, the village industries would appear to be doomed, but the closest observers believe that they can be saved.

Alter Ego.

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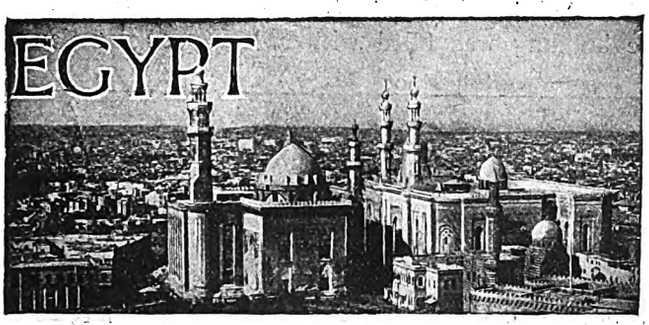
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, April 19.

Jerabub.

Jerabub continues to be the only subject over which, in the present dull state of Egyptian politics, a local leader writer can work up any enthusiasm. Indeed, early in the week, the western frontier question provided a sensation. In the end it was found that the Government organ which had started all the fuss by talking of an Italian ultimatum, had made, if not a mountain, at least a hill, out of a political molehill, and half-an-hour's conversation on Wednesday morning between the Premier and the Italian Minister resulted in the issue of a *communiqué* declaring that there had never been any question of an ultimatum, nor had there been any departure from the normal methods of negotiation. If this had, in fact, been the case, it is difficult to understand why the *Siyassa* had been inspired to start the ultimatum scare. Possibly it all began in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's lack of experience, or, alternatively, there may have been a definite aim to it all, since, as a result of the discussion arising out of this week's events, the country has been brought to realise that there can be no settlement which does not give to Italy control of Jerabub. The theory that the oasis is of vital importance to Egypt has been exploded, and when, as will probably happen in the near future, agreement is reached by which the Senussi stronghold will henceforth be definitely in the Italian area, while Egypt will benefit by rectification of the frontier in the neighbourhood of Sollum, there will be less popular outcry than if the same settlement had been arrived at a few months ago.

Clouds on the Horizon.

Mention has been made of the present tranquillity of Egyptian politics, and, indeed, it is long since we have had such calm. Yet there are signs of a storm to come, and even now "a little cloud . . . like a man's hand" can be discerned on the horizon. While the rumours of differences in the Cabinet, which the Opposition Press is never tired of discovering, need not be given great value, it was significant that, at a dinner given on Thursday evening in honour of the three Ministers who are members of the legal profession, both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice thought it worth while to contradict these reports and to affirm the undiminished solidarity of the Ministry. Without accepting the proposition that no report can be considered true until it has been officially contradicted, it was certainly significant that the rumours of discord should have been referred to at Thursday's dinner. Egypt remains, as ever, the intriguers' paradise, and to the fact that there are always mole-like activities going on below the surface is to be attributed the astonishing manner in which crises of various kinds suddenly fall from an apparently clear sky.

A State University.

It is about eight years ago since the Ministry of Education began to think seriously about the creation of a State University, and now the project is nearing realisation. Ahmed Bey Lutfy es Sayyid, Director of the Royal Library, has been appointed Rector, and four faculties will start work next October. At the present time there is much speculation on who will be appointed as Deans of these faculties. The Ministry has indicated that it hopes to secure distinguished University men from England, France, and America. This intention has given rise to a little criticism on the part of some Egyptians who consider that Egypt can produce her own professors, but was strongly supported in an address on "The Essentials of a Young University" which Professor Brodetsky, Professor of Mathematics at Leeds University, delivered the other day to members of the Egyptian Teachers' Association. Professor Brodetsky was on his way back to England from attending the inauguration of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, and the Egyptian Teachers' Association, which includes several men who have studied under Professor Brodetsky, took advantage of his presence here to ask him to address them. His advice, so obviously disinterested, made a considerable impression on his hearers, and it is to be hoped that the Ministry also will be strengthened in its resolve to get men who are really capable of laying the foundations of a State University, irrespective of whether this course proves popular or not with Egypt's extremist politicians.

Zaghloulists Punished.

Sharp sentences were awarded the members of the Zaghloulist Regional Committee at Tanta and others convicted of inciting the crowd to riot at Mehalla el Kubra on election day. Dr. Haidar el Shishini, Zaghloulist candidate, and formerly Deputy for Mehalla el Kubra, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and eight other members of the Wafd organisation were sent to prison for four months, and ordered, with Dr. Shishini, to pay a joint fine of £300. The trial

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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has aroused very great interest, and, as may be imagined, the result is scarcely likely to facilitate a reconciliation among the bitterly antagonistic political opponents of Gharbia Province.

Departures.

There is a constant stream of departing officials whose service with the Egyptian Government terminated on April 1. To-day Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Public Works, embarks at Port Said after completing thirty years' service. Others who have recently retired, and will be leaving almost at once, are Mr. J. E. Quibell, Curator of the Egyptian Museum; Colonel Castle Smith, A.D.C. to King Fuad; Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Parker, Director-General of the Frontier Districts Administration; and Mr. R. Wellesley, of the Ministry of the Interior.

THE EED-UL-FITR.

The Eed-ul-Fitr, the "happy feast," which celebrates the rising of the new moon of Bairam, after the month-long fast of Ramadan, was celebrated by Moslems in London on April 25 on the site chosen for the first mosque in the Metropolis, in Melrose Road, Southfields. The only part of the mosque at present erected is the Mihrab (the alcove which looks towards Mecca), where prayers are offered by the Imâm. This was consecrated last autumn by the Khalifat-ul-Masih, head of the Ahmadiyya community of Mohammedans. The Imâm Maulvi Da'ud intoned the prayers in Arabic while the worshippers prayed on their mats in the garden.

Moslems of almost all nationalities attended the celebration of the Eed at the Woking Mosque. Besides Indians, Persians, Afghans, Chinese, Burmese, and Malays, there were English and Czecho-Slovakians. Those present included Lord Headley, Dr. Leon Raja Musa, Raja Asnam, Prince Abdul Majidkhan, and the Secretary of the Afghan Legation. The service included the recital of the Ninety-nine Names of Allah.

According to the "Tanin," the first section of the Angora-Yozgad railway was opened for traffic as far as Yaghchi Khan (30 miles) on April 16.

The Grand National Assembly wound up its session on April 21, adjourning until October, and Hamdi Bey, one of the deputies for Constantinople, left for London.

Mr. Amery, Colonial Secretary, and Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary for Air, arrived at Cairo on April 22 on their way home to England. They left Egypt last Friday, having been received in audience by King Fuad the previous day.

Professor Eugène Borel, the arbitrator appointed by the League of Nations to deal with the appeals made by the Succession States against the attribution of the shares in the Ottoman Debt, has made his award, which awaits publication.

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THE BOMB EXPLOSION IN SOFIA.

On April 16, three days after the attempt on King Boris's life, as he was returning to the capital by motor-car, a bomb exploded in the Saint Nédélia Cathedral, Sofia, at a moment when the building was filled with a large congregation

attending the funeral service of General Gheorghieff, who had been assassinated on April 14. The bomb had been placed in a gallery near the southernmost dome, which was completely wrecked. The central dome of the cathedral is

almost entirely destroyed, and will have to be pulled down.

The first photograph shows the exterior of the cathedral after the explosion. In the second photograph are seen, reading from right to left, General Vulkoff, Minister for War; M. Tsankoff, Prime Minister; and His Majesty King Boris.

SPORTS AT CYPRUS.

We have received the following telegram from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol, Cyprus, dated April 27:—"The Panhellenic sports have ended successfully. The first prize was won by the National Athletic Association of Athens, the second by Cyprus, and the third by Alexandria. Vast numbers, among whom absolute order prevailed attended the departure of the athletes at midnight, crying for union with Greece. General Tricoupis, M. Cofinas, the ex-Minister, Colonel Karasvedas, and journalists were among the visitors to Cyprus. The population was thankful to the English authorities.

"It has been announced that Cyprus will have an amended Constitution, and that the Greek seats in the Council will be increased.

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THE TWO BEGGARS.

By F. W. CHARDIN.

There he sits, in the gutter of the road leading from the bazaar to the rough wilderness called a graveyard, under the burning Eastern summer sun, amid the whirling dust-devils, which seem to be like spirits rising from the tombs in the *maqbara*, in order to perform a dervish dance among the abodes of the dead, and to cause passing sons of Adam to cough, choke, and cover their mouths with their head-kerchiefs, in the rime of the winter morning frost, in the bitter evening wind from the snow-covered mountains, or the cold, thick mud produced by the early spring rains. With curved back and bowed head, he rocks gently back and forth, hour in and hour out, "reading" or rather repeating in a monotone, inaudible passages, or is it one passage or none at all, from the Quran esh Sherif—who knows?

The sledge-hammer blows of the scorching sun strike the nape of his neck, and the broad brown patches of his naked back exposed by the rents in his single, filthy, tattered cotton garment, even as the biting wind flutters those same tatters, or the drenching rain soaks them and the bare skin they do not conceal.

He is quite indistinguishable from other poor, righteous men: Arabs from the wide desert, or Kurdish market porters from the wild hills and valleys of their homeland, except that on his head is a large turban of the sacred colour, a vivid green. For this man is not as other men are. In his veins flows the most noble blood in the world, the blood of Mohammed, "Seal of the Apostles," he who bore close fellowship with the Creator of all things, and who was the channel of the final and complete revelation of His will on earth, the man who supplanted all the prophets of all the ages since the beginning of time, and who completes and fulfils their acts and words.

This lowly-seeming man in his wretchedness is a *Sayyid*, a "Lord," an aristocrat of aristocrats; and the rich landowner or merchant on their ambling ponies, with running servants holding their stirrups, and the pious mullah or befezzed effendi in frock coat, on their white donkeys, are mere commoners.

Yet few seem to give to him, scarcely an anna of the superfluity of others seems to be thrown to him, although doubtless he must gain something, for his body appears well nourished and his handsome face bears not the marks of hunger, but only the expression of an ascetic resignation. Perhaps his small takings are supplemented by gifts of bread distributed at some mosque, provided for by the bequest of some pious deceased, and administered by the trustees of that institution.

But what does he there in the gutter? Living such a life of privation and wretchedness, enduring extremes of climate which would kill a European, that middle-aged, well-nourished body of his could, by the lightest of work, earn more than appears to reach him by reason of his pious exercises continued hour after hour and year in and year out. There may be some infirmity which precludes work, even though there seem to be none. Possibly he is just bone-lazy, although his "reading" requires more mental effort and concentration than most forms of ordinary labour. Perhaps, with a view to laying up treasure in the Gardens of Paradise, "through which flow streams of water," he performs all this to the glory of Allah, in unceasing witness to Divine Unity, and as a continual reminder to more worldly men of spiritual obligations.

What does he say? What are the inaudible words he mumbles so interminably? Are they a continuous reiteration of some invocation, are they an eternal repetition of the *Fatiha* or some other chapter of the Quran; or is he a *hafiz* and able to recite from memory the whole of that sacred book, word for word, from end to end? Or does he just say nothing at all, only moving his lips in the semblance of words? One thing, we know, and that is that, if they exist, his words are in the sacred Arabic.

What are his thoughts? Are they a continuous pious meditation of the Divine Unity and of the mission of the last great Prophet, of the joys and obligations of the religious life; or are they just one long hanker after *flus* ("money"), one long-drawn-out hope that each person passing will pity and help him? His eyes appear to be fixed on the ground, but does he glance covertly up to try to appraise each passer-by? Certain it is that he makes no spoken appeal to any individual at all, and he presents no alms-bowl, no outstretched palm, for their consideration. What is he doing there? *Allah ya'raf!* God knows!

* * * *

There she sits; week in and week out, in a noisome corner under a ruined arch in one of the alleys of the bazaar. She or It? For all that is at first apparent to the passer-by is what seems to be a pile of sacks; but, look closer, and it is noticed that out of that shapeless heap of dirty canvas protrudes a thin, claw-like hand, no head, no feet, no body shape, only a grimy hand held palm upwards, and in the attenuation and pallor of the fingers it reminds one of the hand of a dead Turk protruding from the sandbags of a trench parapet in Gallipoli, the more so as it seems not to move from hour to hour. Who is she? What was she?

Most probably she is a friendless old widow creature alone in the world, one who, in this country, would be in a workhouse; but why does she not expose an agonised, appealing face, ready at the least opportunity to grasp your sleeve and kiss it as most others of her condition do, with whining words pouring forth their woes? But perhaps she is of gentle birth and nurture, and cannot now discard the veil of concealment to which she has always been accustomed in public. Perhaps she bears marks of some foul disease, and is ashamed. But, as we cannot see her face, we do not know whether she has, or has possessed, any comeliness; we only know that she sits there while men, women, donkeys, ponies, camels, artisans, merchants, pass by within a foot of her outstretched hand and none seems to notice her.

But no! for here comes a poor, ragged *hammal*, silently as if wishing to do good by stealth, and, as quietly, slipping a small coin into the outstretched palm, he closes her fingers over it and steals away. The hand is drawn in under the folds of the sack-like heap and re-appears empty.

Full of curiosity, I follow the poor porter and say to him: "*Ya hammal*, thou art a good man; dost thou know that poor woman? Who is she, and what are her circumstances and history"? To which he replies, with a modest, deprecating smile: "Nay, Sahib, wallah, I know her not; is she not a poor one, not having anyone in the world? *Allah ya'raf!*"

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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.

THE SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—With regard to the Near and Middle East Association's Memorandum to the League of Nations on the subject of the Serbo-Albanian frontier and the minorities question, which you published on March 12, the following information, which I have received from an unimpeachable source, is, I think, of considerable interest.

I am informed that Yugoslavia regards the Memorandum in question as an infringement of the sovereign rights of the two States concerned. The opinion is expressed that there is no necessity for a Frontier Commission, such as the Association suggests, as political incidents on the Serbo-Albanian frontier have ceased for some time. With regard to that section of the Memorandum dealing with minorities, which is interpreted to refer to Albanian minorities in Yugoslavia, it is pointed out that all minorities in the Triune Kingdom enjoy full civic and political rights.

If I may be permitted to add a personal testimony I would state that the political frontier incidents referred to by the Near and Middle East Association ceased when, near the termination of the Fan Noli régime in Albania, the Soviet Envoy was expelled from Tirana, and the anti-Yugoslav (and Bolshevist-supported) Kossovo Committee was suppressed by Ahmed Bey Zogu. Doubtless the purely bandit activities of the Albanian *Kachacci* continue in some form or other, but I firmly believe that all political significance vanished from these activities at the time of the disappearance from the political arena of Bairam Tsuri.

Since the return of Ahmed Bey Zogu relations between Yugoslavia and Albania have been cordial. There is only one outstanding question—that of St. Naum—and as that matter now rests between the Ambassadors' Conference and direct negotiation between Belgrade and Tirana, it does not come within the orbit of a frontier dispute. Also, as Ahmed Bey withdrew the St. Naum question from the competency of the League of Nations, the question of League intervention now no longer holds.

I feel that the action of the Near and Middle East Association was ill-timed and ill-advised. The plea for outside intervention put forward by the Association can, I feel, but do more harm than good now that the Serbo-Albanian situation is so vastly improved. It suggests two things: bolting the door after the horse has gone, and creating an impression of trouble where none in fact exists. Lastly—although I do not suggest that this was the intention or the motive—it creates the impression of outside tampering with sovereign rights, and I cannot see that this can do anything but harm.—I am, etc.,

J. D. Gleeson.

27, Gladys Road, N.W.6, April 20.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—On arriving home upon the conclusion of a visit to Albania and Yugoslavia, I read in a recent issue of your publication the text of a recommendation addressed to the League of Nations on the subject of the Serbo-Albanian frontier, in which the Near and Middle East Association advise the setting up of a Frontier Commission controlled by the League.

May I beg the courtesy of your space in order to express my very considerable alarm that such a recommendation should be made at the very moment when the liquidation of differences between the two neighbours concerned is proceeding satisfactorily? Not only does the recommendation amount to a questioning of the sovereign rights of two independent States: it also adds weight to the erroneous, but in the circumstances very natural, impression among the Yugoslavs and Albanians that influential British opinion is hostile to the *status quo* at Belgrade and Tirana.

The semi-political semi-highway robbery activities on the Serbo-Albanian frontier which flourished during the days when Mgr. Fan Noli countenanced the anti-Yugoslav intrigues of men like Bairam Tsuri and Bey Ditra now no longer obtain. The re-instalment in office of Ahmed Bey Zogu brought all that to a speedy end. Relations between Belgrade and Tirana are now most friendly. In these circumstances the re-entry of the League, after the President of Albania has officially withdrawn the outstanding dispute of Sveti Naum from the competence of Geneva, would only result in creating complications where none at present exists. The Near and Middle East Association, I take it, has the welfare of the Balkan peoples at heart; I cannot, therefore, understand what prompted its committee to submit its recommendation to the League of Nations.

Likewise the matter dealing with the minorities question shows evidence of a certain prejudice—it is also inaccurate. The Moslems, like other racial minorities in Yugoslavia, enjoyed the same rights as the Serbs, and I can testify to the fact that all the time I was in Bosnia and Southern Serbia (where the Moslem populations are most extensive) I saw no signs of the Bolshevist tendencies referred to by the Near and Middle East Association.

The only inroads made by Bolshevism were among the Albanian *Kachacci* and the late Albanian Kossovo Committee; and the Red complication of the Federalist wing of the Macedonian organisation is a matter of Bulgarian—or Macedo-Bulgar—politics, and is a subject outside the scope of any memorandum on Yugoslav affairs.—I am, etc.,

J. Mahoney-Shealanlor.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE MAURYA DYNASTY IN BENGAL.

"THE EARLY HISTORY OF BENGAL." By F. J. Monahan. (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net.)

Mr. F. J. Monahan was one of the numerous Indian Civil Servants who have devoted their scanty leisure to the study of matters concerning the country in which their work lay. He felt that his own province, Bengal, had an early history which could profitably be told as a separate unit, from the times of the Mauryas to the first Mohamedan invasion. Unfortunately, he died after completing only the first part of his projected work. It is true that he leaves us a book which is complete in itself, and is of great interest. But it is little more than the digging of the foundation for the proposed erection that has been accomplished.

It is unfortunate that the title intended for the complete work has been retained for the fragment now given to the world. For, indeed, the book before us deals, not with Bengal proper, but with what we now know as Bihar. For this period, outside a few hints derived from the observations of Megasthenes and seafarers, nothing is known from foreigners of the history of Bengal. Indeed, it is not possible to gather very much information from these sources even about the history of Palimbothra and its dependencies. Nor do we feel that the great Kautiliya Arthastrastra takes us very far on a safe road. To begin with, we have no very sure ground for assuming that this important document, in the form in which we have it at least, dates from the Maurya period. Nor, again, is it now at all possible to decide how far it is an account of an actual form of government and of an actual social state, or how far it is a mere philosophical treatise describing the author's views on these subjects. Analogy with similar works—*e.g.*, the Laws of Manu—would lead us to suspect its value as a description of a real existing State. At the same time it is true that so exhaustive a document which admittedly was based on a treatise written during the Maurya times must throw considerable light on the political, administrative, and social history of that time. And it is used in this way by Mr. Monahan, who makes a full analysis of its contents, with its queer mixture of high morality and espionage developed to an extent which makes the Russian Secret Police seem innocent. The picture, on the whole, is one of a highly civilised State. This picture is confirmed by what we know of the art of the period and of Chandragupta's activities as a Buddhist enthusiast.

We can only regret that Mr. Monahan did not live to build on the foundations which he had so well dug. Will no one else take up the pen where he dropped it?

C. S-W.

INDIA'S WEALTH.

"WEALTH AND TAXABLE CAPACITY OF INDIA." By K. T. Shah and K. J. Khambata. (Bombay, Taraporevala, and London, P. S. King and Son. 15s. net.)

This is a laborious study, first of the income of the people of India, and then of its distribution among the classes who are, or might be, taxed. The calculation of the national income is approached in a scientific spirit, and, while many of the estimates offered are open to criticism, the whole may be commended to serious students, not as gospel, but as material which they should take into account. The second portion is in our opinion of less value, because the spirit becomes teleological rather than scientific; to judge from the introduction, Professor Shah is both Nationalist and Socialist, and the two sets of ideals, not altogether harmonious, obtrude themselves sufficiently to distract the student from the business in hand. Mr. Khambata, it may be noted, dissociates himself from his collaborator's views, because, as he writes in a note following the introduction, "he does not believe in political changes being a necessary condition precedent to economic regeneration, and because he has a sincere lack of faith in any radical and socialistic solution of India's ills." We congratulate him on getting so near to the root of the matter.

THE ETHICS OF HINDU PHILOSOPHY.

"STUDIES IN VEDANTA." By Rao Bahadur Vasudeva J. Kirtikar. Edited by Mukund R. Jayakar, M.A., LL.B. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala, Sons and Co. Rs.14.)

Mr. Jayakar has done well to edit a series of essays which his grandfather contributed to two Bombay reviews many years ago. The author's main ideas were to familiarise Europeans with a system of philosophy which he had profoundly studied, and so to banish the misconceptions which prevailed regarding its essential doctrines. He succeeded in clarifying a vast mass of speculation, and in proving that it has a well-marked ethical side. European thinkers will reap abundant profit by studying this lucid exposition of Vedánta. It is rather surprising that the twin systems of philosophy known as "Vedánta" should have received such scant attention from Christian missionaries. But the terminology adopted by these ancient sages is a standing puzzle, their dialectics are often confusing, and theological bias has blinded Europeans to the real merits of Indian thinkers. Mr. Kirtikar, therefore, begins his book by defining the basic truth of Vedánta, which may be thus summarised:—

(1) The Universe proceeds from an Ultimate Reality, termed Brahma, who is omniscient, eternal, transcendant, and omnipresent; all forms of life exist in Brahma and shall ultimately find their rest in him.

(2) Brahma is not the author of Evil; it is of man's making, and results from violations of the laws which govern his being.

(3) Every man bears the burden of his *karma*; that is to say, the sum of good and evil thoughts and deeds accumulated during his present and previous existences.

(4) It is within his power to lessen this burden, and eventually to throw it off by thinking and doing rightly.

(5) His mortal life is beset with trials, because he regards it as the real life, and seeks selfish gratification therein.

(6) His greatest enemies are passions and desires, which cannot be eradicated, but may be made to subserve the noblest aims.

(7) All forms of life are closely related; it behoves man to perform duties benefiting one and

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all, without attachment to the material Universe or hope of reward.

(8) Man's goal is self-perfection; and the means of attaining it is a complete realisation that his individual self is identical with Brahma.

Vedánta, therefore, offers a reasonable solution of those eternal enigmas—the Existence of Evil and Free Will; it anticipates the latest doctrines of biology; to obey its behests is to purify the heart, to acquire higher power over matter, and to live for the benefit of one's family, fellow-creatures, and country.

F. H. S.

PERSONALITIES OF OLD INDIA.

"MEN AND THOUGHT IN ANCIENT INDIA." By Professor Radhakumud Mookerji. (London: Macmillan. 7s. 6d. net.)

Professor Mookerji has tried to breathe a little life into the earlier history of India—very dry bones as ordinarily written—by telling what is known of the personal story of five outstanding figures, ranging from Yajnavalkya, the famous philosopher, to Harsha, the great Emperor of Kanauj. We must leave to specialists the task of criticising his use of materials, the scantiness of which he rightly deplores, but, assuming that his interpretation of the old texts is correct, he has made the most of their contents, and, in any case, he has produced the most interesting book on the history of Hindu or Buddhist India which has yet come into our hands. Our only criticism is that we should have liked to find more definite recognition of the risk that the materials may be one-sided, as well as scanty; was there never an opposition party in those days? In the case of Asoka, for instance, the account is based mainly on the Emperor's edicts carved on rocks or pillars, and therefore reproduces the official view: would Professor Mookerji accept as final a reconstruction of Lord Curzon's viceroyalty based on the Resolutions issued by his Government? Subject to this *caveat*, however, the book can be strongly recommended to readers who wish to know what old India was like.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN INDIA.

"ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN INDIA." By P. P. Pillai. (London: Routledge and Sons. 12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Pillai's survey of the economics of India is easily the best of the group of such works which has recently appeared, and the reason of its superiority is easy to find. The author goes straight to the facts of the past as well as the present, and draws his conclusions directly from them, while most of the others either ignore facts altogether, or examine them in the light of crude political dogmas. In the result, Dr. Pillai has given us a scientific work which can be confidently recommended to students. His work is extensive rather than intensive, and shows wide acquaintance with the authorities; the book is clearly written, and on a first reading we have detected nothing to call for serious criticism. We look forward to reading more of Dr. Pillai, and we trust that, next time, he will supply us with an index.

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"The Industries of the World." (An Economic Geography for Senior Classes.) By Robert E. T. Ridout, F.I.S.A., A.C.P. (London: Effingham Wilson.)

"Tennyson." By Harold Nicolson. New Edition. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Sport in India." By Bernard C. Ellison, F.R.G.S., C.M.Z.S., etc. Edited by Sir H. Perry Robinson, K.B.E., etc. Preface by the Earl of Cromer, G.C.I.E., C.V.O., etc. With over 150 illustrations, diagrams, and maps. (London: Wm. Heinemann, Ltd. 32s. net.)

"L'Affaire Gréco-Italienne de 1923." By Pierre Lasturel. (Paris: L'Ile de France, Société Anonyme d'Editions. 7 francs 50.)

"Education in East Africa: Being the Report of the Educational Commission of the Phelps-Stokes Fund to East Africa, 1924." Prepared by the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones. (London: Edinburgh House Press, 2, Eaton Gate, S.W.1. 7s. 6d. net, inland postage 9d.)

THE ART OF NEPAL.

The Earl of Ronaldshay, the new President of the India Society, was chairman at a meeting to hear a lecture by M. Sylvain Lévi, who had come specially from Paris, on the "Art of Nepal." It took place on April 21, at 21, Cromwell Road.

In introducing the lecturer, the chairman said that this was the third occasion on which the Society had been able to welcome a Frenchman as a lecturer. The Society had not been behindhand in returning the compliment, and had sent Sir Thomas Arnold and Capt. Gladstone Solomon to Paris to spread the knowledge of Indian art in France.

The French Ambassador then addressed the meeting, and stated that it was matter for congratulation that an English and a French Society were thus working in collaboration in art matters, and that this was the best possible augury for the future also in other fields. He hoped to see this arrangement with the Musée Guimet bear increasing fruit.

In the course of his lecture M. Sylvain Lévi said that Nepal was a vast storehouse of art treasures, many of which were rapidly falling into decay. Thanks, however, to the enlightened rule of the present Maharaja, he was looking forward to a change in that respect, which would enable Nepal to take its proper place in the art-history of Asia.

The company present included the High Commissioner for India (who moved a vote of thanks), the Netherlands Minister, Sir Thomas Arnold, Sir William Foster, Sir Theodore Morison, Lady Carmichael, Sir John Woodroffe, Prof. William Rothenstein, Prof. N. Gangulee, and Mr. F. J. P. Richter (Hon. Secretary).

RAMADAN BAIRAM.

On the occasion of Ramadan Bairam, April 24, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, held at the Legation, 7, Charles Street, in the morning and in the afternoon, a reception which was attended by the Egyptian colony in London, including the Egyptian students, as well as many English and foreign friends of Egypt.

At the end of the reception the guests expressed their best wishes for the prosperity of King Fuad I. and the Egyptian nation. Several Embassies and Legations sent their representatives to convey their greetings. Sidarouss Bey paid visits in the afternoon to the Turkish, Persian, Afghan, and Albanian Legations, wishing them the prosperity of the Bairam.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 30, 1925 (New Style).
April 17, 1925 (Old Style).
Shawall 6, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Iyar 6, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Viscount and Viscountess Chelmsford have now returned to 116, Eaton Square.

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner returned to 9, Palace Court, last week, from Casablanca.

The R.A.F. Middle East Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 28, at the Trocadero Restaurant.

The Egyptian Minister, who has been absent on leave for several months, has returned to London.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., M.P., and Lady Maud Hoare were expected to return to 18, Cadogan Gardens yesterday from Egypt.

Sir Percy Cox will represent India at the International Arms Conference which meets at Geneva on May 4.

The Earl and Countess of Plymouth, who are on their way home from India, are due to return to 24, Oxford Square next week.

Lady Sanderson, wife of the Chief Justice of Bengal, who has been in a nursing home since her return from India, left last week for Ward House, Ellel, Lancaster.

The Turkish Ambassador in London left on April 22 for Switzerland to undergo a course of medical treatment. Moukbil Bey, Counsellor, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, accompanied by Lady Manning and his daughter, arrived in England last Saturday from Ceylon. They are staying at 10, Wilton Place, S.W.1.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, who has been attending the Congress of International Geographical Societies in Cairo as delegate for the Royal Geographical Society, is expected to arrive home with Lady Edward Gleichen to-day.

The engagement is announced between William Hough, His Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, Syria, and Hortense, eldest daughter of the late Louis Rocher, of the Chinese Maritime Customs, and Mme. Rocher, Mont Sourel, St. Laurent-du-Var, Alpes Maritimes, France.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Alexander Telford Waugh, C.M.G., H.B.M. Consul-General at Constantinople, and Gwendda Kate, daughter of the late A. Cecil Hugh-Jones, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Hugh-Jones, 13, University Mansions, Putney.

Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, who was Chief Secretary to the Prince of Wales during his Indian tour, has since been Private Secretary to the Viceroy, and has been in England on leave since January, has volunteered to act as Private Secretary to Lord Reading during the latter's stay in this country.

The King has given Mr. Hugh Albert Boyle and Mr. Samuel Frank Langridge authority to wear the insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on them by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them as officials of the Sudan Government.

A dinner was given at the Forum Club last Thursday to representatives of the British Empire Exhibition Fellowship. The chief guests were Lord and Lady Leigh, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry and Lady Galway, Sir Charles and Lady McLeod, Admiral H. H. Campbell, and the High Commissioner for India, Sir Atul Chatterjee.

The engagement is announced of Horace Frank Coleman, Sherwood Foresters, only surviving son of the late F. M. Coleman, Esq., formerly proprietor of the *Times of India*, and the late Mrs. Coleman, and Joan, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Heathcote, of Kensington, and granddaughter of the late Francis Drewry, Esq., and of Mrs. Drewry, Court Heath, Buxton, and of Charles Heathcote, Esq., Bournemouth.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *London Gazette* announces the promotion of Lieut.-General Sir J. A. L. Haldane, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., to be General, in succession to General Lord Rawlinson, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., who died on March 29. Sir J. A. L. Haldane, who is sixty-two years of age, joined the Gordon Highlanders at the age of twenty. He took part in several campaigns in India, and distinguished himself in the South African War. In the European War he was mentioned nine times in despatches, and he was Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia in 1920-21 during the Arab insurrection, which was successfully suppressed.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas Eyebron Moir, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras, in succession to Mr. Robert Arthur Graham, C.S.I., I.C.S., who is about to retire from the Council.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925.

BULGARIA AND COMMUNISM.

Bulgaria during the past week has come in for much criticism, some of it harsh, most of it ill-informed. According to their prejudices, the critics fasten on this or that aspect of the situation, but fail to look at the situation in its entirety. Some are anxious to minimise Bolshevist complicity and stress the dissatisfaction previously prevailing in the country; others have no thought for anything else than the wildest statements regarding the reign of terror alleged to have been inaugurated by the Government. The unprejudiced onlooker will be inclined to think that it would not be surprising if there were one. A deliberate and carefully organised attempt to wipe out a whole Cabinet regardless of the attendant loss of life among an innocent public, in circumstances such as those which claimed nearly two hundred victims in the old Cathedral in Sofia two weeks ago, is calculated to rouse the primitive instinct of self-preservation in those who have experienced the ordeal. The Bulgarian Government has certainly been hitting back at the Communists, and anyone acquainted with conditions in the Balkans will know that in such cases there is always a risk of the aggrieved party's going too far. Whether this has actually happened in Bulgaria this time we are unable from the evidence available to determine. We attach no more credence to many of the reports emanating from suspect sources than we should to the allegation that, because three members of the British Labour Party found themselves in Sofia shortly after the explosion in the Cathedral, they must have been there by arrangement with Moscow to witness the establishment of a Bulgarian Soviet Republic. Unfortunately, in many quarters the most improbable allegations are accepted as accurate. Some idea of the mentality of these Labour tourists is afforded by the statements for which they have made themselves responsible. The arrests in Sofia alone, at the time when he was there, two days after the outrage, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., solemnly estimates at six thousand, or, let us say, one in seven of the adult male population of the capital, the equivalent, perhaps, of two hundred thousand arrests in a couple of days in London. There is, therefore, nothing in the evidence of these prejudiced and ignorant visitors to Sofia that need be set against the official announcement that five hundred arrests have been made in the capital. A Government, after the crime perpetrated in the Cathedral, would have been remiss if it had not drawn a military cordon round Sofia and tried to arrest everyone suspected of complicity in the plot. Some crude acts of revenge there will certainly have been; but some allowance must be made for the horror of the Communists' crime.

The cumulative effect of the disclosures regarding Bolshevist encouragement or inspiration should satisfy the most sceptical that there has been something more behind the scenes than mere political hatred. Even if it be held that the military plans for the seizure of power in Bulgaria by the Communists are too elaborate to be wholly genuine, as is urged in some quarters, it is difficult to challenge the circumstantial evidence that the Government has marshalled of the plot that culminated in the explosion in the Cathedral. The assassination of King Boris is stated to have been part of the original scheme; but on this point more definite information will, presumably, be forthcoming, if the would-be assassins are captured and put on trial. Not the least significant evidence is supplied by the confident assertion of the *Fédération Balkanique*, the Vienna organ of the Macedonian Communists, in its issue of April 15, that "the day of triumph was near," and that "the destruction of Tsankoff will not be long coming"; further, it is stated that telegrams sent out from Odessa, five hours before the Cathedral outrage, announced that an armed conflict had broken out throughout Bulgaria. It is the particularly diabolical nature of the outrage that points to foreign instigation. The purpose of a wholesale slaughter in the capital must have been to enable the perpetrators to seize power, and that could have been done only with the support of a considerable section of the Bulgarian people. There is no reason to suppose that the leaders had any great following, or that a sufficient number of Bulgarians would connive at such a crime to the extent of maintaining the perpetrators in power. On the other hand, it is entirely in keeping with what is known of the Bolshevists that the two men responsible for the plot should be content to rely on general terrorist methods to carry them through the scheme for establishing a Soviet Government.

As soon as all Communist suspects have been arrested and their guilt or innocence in connection with the plot associated with the names of Minkoff and Yankoff determined, the Government of M. Tsankoff will have an opportunity of proving itself under new conditions. The nation has been profoundly stirred by the Cathedral outrage, the full significance of Communism has been realised, and the country is ready, as never before, to respond to a constructive lead which will restore a sense of unity to Bulgaria. To this end every member of the Government must cease to regard himself as the champion of a particular party, and devote his efforts to bringing all sections of the people together in a common resolve to wipe out the past. The Government is on safe ground in seeking to prove that responsibility for the situation with which it has to deal rests with Moscow; but as soon as it seeks to incriminate Bulgarian political exiles as well, it encourages the suspicion that, after all, domestic politics may be at the bottom of the whole of its trouble. The best way to remove this suspicion would be to bring the exiles home or to prove conclusively that they had a share in the preparations for the Cathedral crime. There will be a strong desire on the part of all patriotic Bulgarians to bury the hatchet and to put an end to the feud that started with Stambolisky. Able, well-meaning at the first, but misguided towards the end, Stambolisky has paid the penalty; at the other end of the scale is that murderous outrage on April 16. No good can come of any attempts to redress the balance further; but the first move to a happier state of affairs must come from the Government. Nothing would be of better augury for the future than the announcement that, in the face of the great tragedy that Communism has brought on the country, a political amnesty had been offered the Agrarian exiles on the definite understanding that they would support the Government in its efforts for national reconstruction on non-political lines.

Information regarding a new feature that is shortly to be introduced into "The Near East" appears on p. 447.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange
£1 = 300 dinars
approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East": No. 3.

THE YUGOSLAV BUDGET.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE IN PARLIAMENT.

According to the Constitution and the State Accounts Act the plan of budgetary expenses and receipts should be submitted to the House at the beginning of the regular legislative session and at the latest within one month, *i.e.*, between October 20 and November 20, of each year. But as a result of the political situation, of which you are aware, Parliament was at that time dissolved. Elections were held on February 8, and the new Parliament met on March 7. It could only be regularly constituted on March 28, after the verification of mandates, and could then begin its regular legislative work.

It is evident that the short time from now until April 1, when the new budgetary year begins, will not be sufficient for the discussion of the whole Budget. The only resource left to us, by the Constitution and by the law, is that of budgetary twelfths, and the Government, therefore, submits to you to-day a Bill on budgetary twelfths for the months of April, May, June, and July.

This use of budgetary twelfths is clearly not one of the most advisable financial practices, and should be employed only in case of emergency. But I have endeavoured in the project now before you to introduce certain correctives to avoid the inconveniences to which it is liable.

These inconveniences have been avoided in two ways. First, certain corrections have been made even in the old Budget figures by the increase or decrease of certain items. Secondly, the corrections have been made in such a way that the Ministers are not strictly bound by their allowances to the four-twelfths, but are enabled to undertake engagements extending beyond that period, on condition that such actual expenditures shall not be made except from credits authorised by Parliament.

The increase of credits under Article 1 of the Bill before you amounts for the four months to 665,026,201.33 dinars. But this increase is one which provides mainly for productive expenditure—*i.e.*, expenditure which of itself creates new revenue. From the point of view of the taxpayer, therefore, this is only an apparent increase, for it entails no new burden on him.

Under the heading of productive expenses I shall mention first those for railways. The increase for this item is 146 million dinars, and for the most part is allotted for the continuation of work already in progress, for the construction of new lines, or the survey of those which will have to be constructed later. The railway programme for the ensuing financial year includes under Article 8 of the present Bill the credits necessary for the completion of the following lines:—Topchider-Mala Krsna-Pozarevatz; Uzitze-Vardishté; Grachatz-Knin; Ormosh-Ljoutomer-Mourska Subota; Titel-Orlovat, together with a bridge over the Tissa; Bihatch-Bosanska Kroupa; Paratchin-Stalatch; Veles-Shtip and Nish-Prokouplje. The survey and construction of the following lines will also be undertaken immediately: — Shtip-Kochane; Belgrade-Obrenovatz; Trebinje - Bileche - Nikshitch; Pazaritch-Konjitz and Klaria-Srhjin.

Thus the Government ensures continuity in the execution of its railway policy, which includes not only the complete reconstruction of the existing system, but also the construction of altogether new lines, as far as financial means will permit. Yugoslavia is among the States which have the largest programme of railway construction to their credit since the War, for it has actually completed 700 kilometres.

As a second series of productive expenditure I shall direct your attention to the expenditure of the Monopoly Administration. This amounts for

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the four months to 46 million dinars, and is mainly due to increased production of tobacco. The 1924 crop was 27 million kilograms, and exceeded that of the preceding year by 50 per cent. This year 800 million dinars must be invested for the purchase of tobacco. By increasing production in 1923 and 1924, the kingdom has changed from a country which in 1921 and 1922 was obliged to import tobacco (*e.g.*, from Holland), often of a quality inferior to home tobacco, to one which is not only able to satisfy its own needs, but also to export considerable quantities. The 1923 crop allowed 6 million kilograms to be set aside for export, and of this a quarter has already been sold. The 1924 harvest will allow an export of 10 million kilograms. Particular note should be taken of the satisfactory income derived from the Monopolies, which form the basis of our financial resources.

A comparison of the receipts from April 1, 1923, to January 30, 1924 (1,832,000,000 dinars), with those from April 1, 1924, to January 31, 1925 (2,045,000,000 dinars), shows an increase of 183 millions. This growth is also evident from the estimates. For the latter period the estimate was 1,928,000,000 dinars, while the actual receipts were 2,045,000,000 dinars, or 87 million dinars more.

Another of these productive forms of expenditure which is increased in the present twelfths is that for the Belje domain. This increase amounts to 19 millions, and is proportioned to the receipts from the estate. Belje is becoming from year to year a more important source of revenue. Thus the Budget for 1922 estimated 76 million dinars receipts and 56 million expenses—*i.e.*, a difference of 20 millions, whereas in reality the profit was 21 millions. For 1923 76 millions were estimated as receipts, while in that year there was a clear profit of 36 million dinars. Finally, the 1924 Budget estimated 169 million receipts and 144 million expenses, thus allowing a profit of 25 million dinars. The provisional balance, however, shows that the clear profit will amount to nearly 50 million dinars. Particularly favourable results were obtained by the Belje sugar factory, which in 1921 manufactured 400 truckloads, in 1922 50 per cent. more—*i.e.*, 630 trucks—and in 1924 double that amount, 1,530 trucks. Such large results justify this increased expenditure, which is really only a productive investment.

I call your attention also to the sum of 14 million dinars, which is an increase in the expenditure for the repair of roads all over the country, and chiefly for the highroad Belgrade-Kragujevatz-Rashka-Petch-Andrijevitsa *via* Montenegro to Cattaro. One section, that of Petch-Andrijevitsa, should be completed by the end of the year, thanks to the credits allotted in the Budget for that period.

I must also ask your consideration of some other increased expenditures, which though impossible to represent as directly productive, yet on closer examination prove necessary. First, Army expenditure. This increase of 19 millions is rendered necessary by the application of the Army and Navy Organisation Act. The rise in prices for some of the economic services of the Army—as, for example, in that of meat—has entailed some increase. The third reason is the reconstruction of the powder magazine at Obilitch, which was destroyed during the war, and the renewal of the Kragujevatz arsenal.

Among other increases is that for pensions. This is due to the allowances for the high cost of living, and amount to 72 millions, and the increased allowances to the disabled, 33 million dinars for the four months. This is a perfectly justifiable amount, and the Government has allotted it in accordance with the power conferred by the Finance Act.

Among these expenses there is also a sum of 50 millions for the payment of arrears and 25 millions for the fulfilment of the agreement by which we undertook part of the non-redeemed Austro-Hungarian Debt, in conformity with the Peace Treaty and the decisions of the Reparations Commission. These increases will permit these twelfths to satisfy fully the present needs of the State. We have introduced a corrective here in authorising Ministers to undertake credits above these twelfths if the character of the work concerned and the needs of the State so demand. In this way these twelfths will remove a large number of, if not all, the inconveniences which the system of budgetary twelfths usually entails.

This Bill also includes, besides the authorisation of the expenditure of the twelfths for the ensuing budgetary period, certain earlier and extraordinary credits belonging to former Budget periods. These amount to 1,073 million dinars under Article 6 and 286 millions under Article 13. This increase came about during the budgetary year, not because the previous Budget was fictitious, but because new needs arose during the year which could not be postponed. Among the expenses of the year there are included not only those resulting from decisions of the present Government, but also those of the preceding Government of M. Davidovitch. Among the expenses of the supplementary credits are included those for allowances to pensioners due to the high cost of living, the increase of pay to the police in conformity with the resolution of the Finance Commission, and, lastly, certain expenses which would not have had to be included if it had been possible to call the Finance Commission during the electoral campaign to vote the manner of employing the surplus receipts according to the Finance Law. The most important is an item of 209 million for the Ministry of Communications. This amount would not have been here if the Finance Commission had been able to function normally, and if credits had been allotted on the basis of the surplus receipts of the Ministry of Communications, which are an actual surplus.

[Dr. Shecherov: "Why did you not call the Finance Commission?"

The Minister: "M. Schecherov, you would have been the first not to come, for you had not the time."]

There is also among these supplementary credits a sum of 100 million dinars for the payment of arrears. But I shall show that these twelfths includes not only credits from the last Budget, but also from the Budgets of 1921 and 1922.

The question here is one of the regulation of certain payments which were temporarily effected by the decision of the Ministerial Council at the time when Dr. Koumanoudi was Minister of Finance, for which the approval of the House was not obtained at the time nor afterwards. I propose now a credit of 61 million dinars for this purpose.

As regards the covering of these twelfths and the supplementary and extraordinary credits which they contain, I shall draw your attention to the general position of State receipts and expenditure, as far as it is evident from the figures published up to the present. I can assure you that the position of State receipts is still satisfactory, and that the accounts available so far give a favourable picture of the growth of revenue.

According to the figures for the period from April 1 to the end of December, 1924, there was an excess of receipts over estimates of 795 million dinars, while certain items showed 512 million

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dinars less than the estimate revenues, so that the actual surplus of receipts for that period—from April 1 to December 31—was 282 million dinars. This falling-off in receipts, which I have just mentioned as having reached 512 million dinars, has steadily decreased since December. This is the case, for example, with the monopoly receipts, the deficit for which amounts in the list to 227 million dinars. This deficit entirely disappeared during the following months. If you look at the monopoly receipts from April 1, 1923, to March 1, 1924, these were 1,530 million dinars, while for the present budgetary year, April 1, 1924, to March 1, 1925, they increased to 1,581 millions, or 43 millions more than during the preceding year. The figures also show the monthly receipts of the Monopolies during the present financial year have been 143 million dinars, which means that, if this amount is also reached in March, it will give a total for the year of about 1,724 million dinars, while the estimates were only 1,689 millions. Consequently, the Monopolies will no longer show a deficit on the estimates.

The same is the case with another deficit hitherto shown in the receipts from the national estates. The Belje domain, of which I have already spoken, is particularly in question, the balance for which does not appear in the figures for December. The net profit of 50 million dinars which I have just cited will do away with the deficit which has hitherto occurred. In the same way the economic institutions, the National Bank, the State Mortgage Bank, and the Postal Savings Bank, will show a deficit in the reports for December. This will disappear as soon as the share of the net profit to come to the State from these institutions is known.

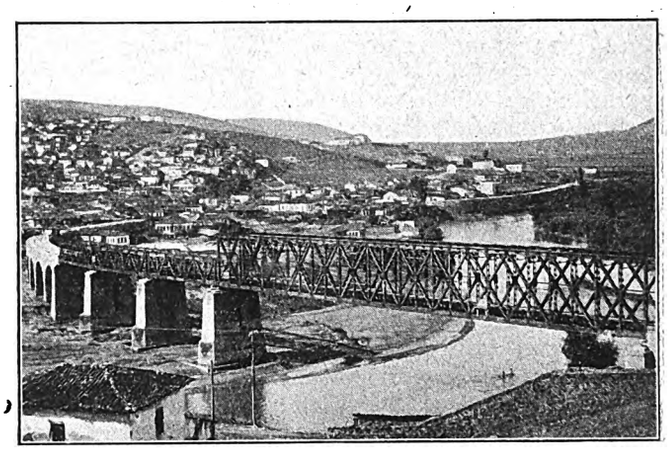
In contrast, however, to the decrease shown in certain categories of receipts, which will disappear during the year as soon as the accounts are drawn up of the State receipts and expenditure for the additional months, is the great increase from direct taxation. This is a proof of the economic strength of the nation, and of a sound financial policy that is making continually for improvement.

The receipts from direct taxation, which show the progress of administration, have grown as follows:—For the financial year 1919-1920, 113 million dinars; 1920-1921, 258 millions; 1921-1922, 581 millions; 1922-1923, 687 millions; and in 1924, 1,789 millions. The super-taxes of 50 per cent. and 30 per cent. which have been imposed during the last two years have yielded 314 millions in 1923 and 456 millions in 1924. The yield from the tax on business turnover is also growing. In 1921 it yielded 42 millions, in 1922 97 millions, in 1923 165 millions, and in 1924 191 millions. Lastly, the tax for the disabled yielded in 1921 30 million dinars, in 1922 32 millions, in 1923 62 millions, and in 1924 71 millions.

Thus the excess receipts which appear in these twelfths as a kind of covering for debts are no fiction. They really exist.

Another means of covering for these twelfths and surplus expenses besides these surplus receipts is provided by those Budget economies which I propose here, and those which have been carried out in the past year. Under Article 1 of the present twelfth a reduction of expenses by 32,298,230,33 dinars is provided. But it should not be supposed that this is the only reduction in expenses. This is only the amount which can be guaranteed by the abolition of some credits and the reduction of others. In the course of carrying through the Budget certain occasions are bound to arise when other economies may be effected which could not be foreseen and estimated exactly.

The carrying out of former Budgets has proved that such economies are possible. Two years ago I proposed a Bill for the covering of supplementary credits from the surplus receipts and economies. The Opposition, on the other hand, asserted that these surplus receipts would not be realised. But I will call your attention to the State receipts and expenses for March, 1924. You will see from them that an actual surplus of receipts over expenditure was obtained, reckoning also here the economies in the Budget effected in the nine months ending in March, 1924. This surplus amounted to 1,037,000,000 dinars. In the period following also we had a surplus from receipts and economies. For the period from April to December, 1924, the surplus receipts and the economies under the various budgetary items amounted to 432 million dinars. These surplus amounts, therefore, form a real covering for the twelfths proposal now before you.



Railway Bridge (700 ft. long) over the Vardar, on the Veles-Shtip line.

Lastly, we have proposed one more means of covering these twelfths and supplementary credits by a proposed increase of the tax for the disabled. This increase is justified by the raising of the pensions for the disabled. For this increase we have voted 100 million dinars, while the increase of the tax for the disabled will give about 80 million dinars of new revenue.

Similarly, we have instituted a super-tax on vehicles for military use, a tax which was already imposed by the Military Law, but not enforced hitherto. The revenue from this will be employed for the expenses of the Ministry of War.

These three resources which I have just explained will, without a doubt, cover all the expenses proposed, so that it is safe to assert that these new credits will in no way interfere with the equilibrium of the Budget. But although we have assured a quite regular financial policy, it must be confessed that there are certain obstacles to be encountered which are particularly difficult for a Finance Minister to overcome. These are the arrears for former budgetary periods from 1919 onwards. To meet these debts we propose to ask for your authorisation for the issue of bonds to the amount of 450 million dinars for three years. This amount would be sufficient to cover all the State.

Another difficulty is that at present the Minister of Finance has liquid capital. This was provided by the National Bank Law to the amount of one milliard dinars. Now this amount was spent by the end of 1922, and in such a way that its restoration to the National Bank is no easy matter. The Minister of Finance is thereby now deprived of a practical and useful means of carrying on the regular financial policy. Although there is no budgetary deficit there might be a deficit in the

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Treasury at any given time. But for this liquid capital there is still the possibility of issuing bonds to the amount of 500 million dinars in accordance with the Finance Law. Here I can report one success. We have succeeded in placing in America short-term bonds to the amount of three million dollars on the basis of our credit and the State's signature, without specially tying up the State's receipts and without any special guarantee. The placing has been done through the Blair Bank, with which we are in full agreement. The bonds are for six months, and date from April 1. This is the first time since the War that we have succeeded in placing a loan on a foreign market without being obliged to give guarantees. Further, in order to be able to carry on our financial plans, we have concluded a contract in the last few days with several British banks. This contract amounts to a million pounds sterling, or 300 million dinars. This is an agreement between the banks and the Monopoly Administration, but its particular importance lies in the fact that it opens to us the great British money market. The amount is three times that of last year's loan, without lombard securities from the National Bank, such as were formerly demanded by British banks. This proves that our credit abroad is growing from year to year.

Lastly, we must mention one difficulty in connection with the execution of the State Budget, particularly that of a large capital expenditure such as is required for railways. This difficulty lies in the lack of any large loan for such purposes. But I can assure you that in this respect future prospects are favourable concerning the Anglo-American loan of the Blair Bank and the large British firm of Armstrong, Whitworth. The negotiations are already in progress, and as soon as they reach their termination, if they conclude favourably, I shall make a statement to the House. These loans are absolutely necessary not only for purposes of capital expenditure, but also in order to relieve the credit crisis which prevails all over the country. There are no other means of remedying this crisis, and this loan will also serve to consolidate the position of the dinar. A further relief to the crisis is the encouragement of saving, so that money may circulate among the banks, and finally return once more to the saver. In this respect some success has already been attained. The annual balance-sheets of 1924 of the banks of all parts show increased saving everywhere. Foreign loans are needed not only for State purposes, but also for the needs of municipalities, commerce, and industry. To encourage the movement in this direction and to strengthen our credit abroad, certain measures have been included in the law which forms part of these twelfths. One of these aims at the abolition of compulsory settlements, which injures the credit of commerce and thereby of the State. The great efforts made in the last two years and the taxes voted by Parliament have brought about a consolidation of finance and allow the Government in the coming months to devote itself to the development of agriculture, crafts, commerce, and industry.

Our commercial balance is the best proof of what has already been done in this direction. In 1923 the balance was almost favourable, imports being 8 milliards 309 millions, and exports 8,048 milliards. In 1924 the balance was absolutely favourable, imports amounting to 9,221,743,552 dinars, and exports to 9,538,774,432 dinars, thus giving a surplus of exports of 1,317,030,680 dinars.

These are the results of a sound economic and financial policy. The rate of the dinar also shows similar results. On January 1, 1923, the dinar was quoted at 5.42 Swiss francs for 100 dinars, and rose to 6.37 on January 1, 1924, and 7.91 on January 1, 1925. At present it stands at 8.40 Swiss francs. The currencies of other countries have not shown the same progress during that period. Cheques on Milan, Paris, Prague, and Bucharest have all fallen. Parallel with the rise of the dinar abroad there has been a fall in foreign cheques at Belgrade. Thus London moved from 429.25 on January 1, 1923, to 385.15 on January 1, 1924, and 306.25 on January 1, 1925. At present it stands below 300. During the same period Paris moved from 673 to 348, Geneva from 1,471 to 1,261, New York from 92.75 to 64.50, Rome from 470 to 272.75, Prague from 193.5 to 195.55, and Bucharest from 53.50 to 33.50. This is the best proof that State finances and National Bank economy have been on the path of progress in the last two years.

I am convinced, Gentlemen, that you will vote the credits and authorisation which the Government proposes, in order that we may be able to continue to strengthen the finances of the State.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE S.H.S. KINGDOM.

All parts of the Kingdom, and especially Serbia, suffered after the War from a scarcity both of home and of imported goods. In an economic sense, Serbia was practically ruined, for railway lines had been destroyed by the retreating enemy. It is for this reason that the kingdom, though an agricultural country, was obliged to import even food. The entire commercial policy of the kingdom was, therefore, one of restriction. During the first two years import was encouraged and export made difficult until reconstruction needs were satisfied. In 1920 such needs had been met to a great extent, but export was still weak. Bad and expensive communications made it easier to import light manufactured goods from abroad than to export heavy raw material. The years 1921 and 1922 were not very productive. It was not until 1923 that export became normal, thanks to a good harvest, the lowering of export tariffs, and better transport. During 1924 the kingdom finally succeeded in establishing an active trade balance, recovery having been speeded up also by the receipt of reparations in kind from 1921 onwards.*

According to the latest Customs statistics, trade since the War was as follows:—

I.—Quantity (in tons).

	Imports.	Exports.
1919	155,170	282,679
1920	439,563	915.186
1921	733,638	1,583,658
1922	1,232,414	2,213,881
1923	1,123,019	3,025,914
1924	1,127,686	3,915,700

II.—Value in Dinars.

	Imports.	Exports.
1919	2,982 067·276	686,845·0·0
1920	3,465,819·272	1,320,606·055
1921	4,122,097·642	2.460,737·562
19 2	6,441,876·189	3,691,166·163
1923	8,309,635·472	8 0?8,8 3 930
1924	8,221,743·552	9,538,774·452

* Reparations were received from Germany in cattle and various goods and material, from Bulgaria and Hungary chiefly in cattle and coal. The reparations from Germany were the most important: their total value according to orders exceeds 200 mil. gold marks. All reparations are booked separately from other imports from 1923 onwards, but as the statistics are not accurate in details, we refrain from publishing them. Reparations received in 1921 and a large amount of those in 1922 are entered as ordinary imports.

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III.—Value in Gold Francs (Swiss).

	Imports.	Exports.
1919	713,413·223	164,316·995
1920	746,943·808	284,613·373
1921	538,132·851	321,245·112
1922	452,378·945	559,211,106
1923	493,446,286	477,959·853
1924	578,588·568	671,271·951

The value in gold francs was reckoned on the average quotation of Zurich and Geneva cheques at the Belgrade and Zagreb Bourses.

The percentage of export compared with import was :—

1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
23·03	38·10	59·69	57·29	96·86	116·02

As may be seen from these figures, the trade balance became active in the sixth year after the War. Thus the kingdom, which, according to its natural wealth and its agricultural character, should be an exporting country, has now, in fact, recovered its normal trade position. With this recovery foreign trade has gradually become less restricted and more normal, although there still exist export and import duties. A thorough revision of these duties will be undertaken in the course of this year, as soon as the new law of Customs duties comes into force, the trade agreement with Italy is ratified, and negotiations for trade agreements with other countries are completed.

Exports.

During the first two months of the current year exports were as follow :—January, 334,462 tons, of a value of 63,662,144 Swiss gold francs, as compared with 220,110 tons, of a value of 43,817,849 Swiss francs, in January, 1924. February, 313,564 tons (58,235,484 Swiss francs), as compared with 228,436 tons (45,771,478 Swiss francs) in February, 1924. Thus the increase in exports for the first two months of 1925 over the corresponding figures of the previous year was 199,480 tons (32,309,301 Swiss gold francs), representing a 36 per cent. increase in value.

THE PRODUCTION OF SPIRITS.

The spirit industry in Yugoslavia caters mainly for the home market. Out of a total production of 151 million gallons only a little more than twelve millions are exported. The industry is centred almost exclusively in the northern part of the kingdom, in Croatia, Slavonia, and Syrmia (Srem), with Zagreb as the actual headquarters. Among the potable spirits may be mentioned slivovitza, borovichka, cognac, and various liqueurs.

The total production of spirits in Yugoslavia for the twelve months from September 1, 1923, to August 31, 1924, was 6,895,306 hectolitres (a hectolitre = 22 gallons), and the State receipts from this source amounted to 78,865,001 dinars. Of the total 3,908,899 hectolitres were sold to consumers in the country, 2,195,463 hectolitres were sold for technical and industrial purposes, and 550,590 hectolitres were exported. There was a small import of 34,350 hectolitres, mainly in the form of rum, chemical, and cosmetic preparations.

Production by centres for the period named was as follows, in hectolitres :—

Zagreb, 2,565,762; Sombor, 766,881; Tuzla, 736,373; V. Bechkerek, 657,358; Osijek, 548,962; Belgrade, 434,744; Novi Sad, 251,307; Sl. Pozhega, 196,785; Vukovar, 182,156; Subotica, 142,576; Panchevo, 142,406; Varajdin, 134,311; Liubliana, 131,177. Export was confined almost entirely to the factories of Zagreb and Tuzla.

YUGOSLAV STATE MONOPOLIES.

The following statement of receipts for the first ten months of the current financial year, to January 31, is published by the Administration of Monopolies of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes :—

Monopoly.	Receipts, Dinars, April 11, 1924, to January 31, 1925.		Receipts, Dinars, April 11, 1923, to January 31, 1924.
Tobacco	1,369,189,396	.....	1,264,965,465
Salt.....	268,097,459	.....	260,695,513
Kerosene	130,974,861	.....	85,075,242
Matches	130,605,487	.....	109,131,147
Cigarette Paper.....	110,065,042	.....	93,394,402
Sundry Receipts ...	6,613,952	.....	4,201,405
Total	2,015,546,197	.....	1,832,463,174

The balance-sheet of the Administration of Monopolies for the ten months ending January 31, 1925, showed, in dinars :—*Receipts:* Monopolies, 1,974,217,953; Customs, 1,126,116,075; Stamps and Registered Stamp Duties 973,306,286; total, 4,073,640,314 dinars. *Expenditure:* Service of the Public Debt, 128,572,121; Remitted to Blair and Co., New York, 57,781,043; 5 per Cent. Montenegrin Loan (Boulton Bros., London), 3,078,594; Costs of Administration, 572,442,251; Current Account with the Ministry of Finance, 3,096,757,560; Purchase of Supplies, 196,780,974; Balance of cash in hand, 18,227,771; grand total, 4,073,640,314 dinars.

The British Naval Mission under Admiral Townsend, which is to go into the question of the reorganisation of the Greek Navy, arrived at Athens last Friday.

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen will be the principal guest at the fourth annual dinner of the Salonika Army and Black Sea Forces, which will be held at the Hotel Cecil on June 19. General Sir George Milne will preside.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S. KINGDOM.

Belgrade, March 31, 1925.

ASSETS.			
Cash—			
Gold	72,383,104 15		
Silver	17,458,076 20		
Foreign Bank Notes	2,457,898 31		
At Call in Foreign Countries	337,564,632 13		
			429,863,710 79
Portfolio Bills	1,095,101,497 94		
Advances on Securities	197,439,591 75		
			1,292,541,089 69
Account for the Conversion of the Crown Bank Notes ...			1,186,367,906 76
Account of the Prov. Exchange			367,971,697 74
Advances to the State—			
Treasury Bonds discounted..	966,355,034 —		
Advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —		
			2,966,355,034 —
For cover of Bank Notes (Crown Notes conversion)			2,138,377,163 —
Sundries			360,188,704 43
			8,741,665,306 41
LIABILITIES.			
Capital—Dinars 50,000,000 (gold)			
Of which paid up			26,117,400 —
Legal Reserve			5,888,795 95
Notes in Circulation.....			5,594,181,810 —
Provisional Exchange Account			367,971,697 74
Sundry Obligations—			
Current Accounts.....	281,766,973 01		
Special Accounts	261,078,032 71		
			542,845,005 72
State Domains Account—			2,138,377,163 —
Agio for purchase of gold for capital and funds			66,283,470 —
			8,741,665,305 41

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as 1 dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined, silver dinar as 1 dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6%, Loans on securities 8%.

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REFUGEES IN GREECE.

The final appeal of the Imperial War Relief Fund which was issued on March 30, and was mainly on behalf of the refugees in Greece, has elicited a most disappointing response up to the present. The amount of donations received during the past three weeks has fallen very far below that received in response to previous appeals.

There are still many hundreds of thousands of destitute refugees in Greece who require support for the coming months until the work of the Refugee Settlement Commission gets into its full stride, and the Council of the Fund had relied, in making this appeal their final one, on a repetition of the generosity of the public on the same scale as before, to enable them to complete the special feeding programme among the refugees which they had in mind. The consequences, therefore, of this lack of support will be very grievous.

It is very earnestly hoped that those who can afford to do so will respond to this appeal by sending a donation to Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, K.C.B., Imperial War Relief Fund, 26, Gordon Street, London, W.C.1. Otherwise much suffering and distress which the Council had confidently expected to prevent will be unavoidable.

A summary of the activities of the fund for the past four years will be gladly sent on request by the secretary of the fund at the above address.

BAGHDAD MOTOR MAIL.

The Postmaster-General announces that newspapers and other printed papers, commercial papers and samples may now be sent at a reduced rate in the overland mails for Iraq and the Persian Gulf by the Haifa-Baghdad Desert motor route, which are dispatched from London on Thursday evenings.

The special fee for such packets is 1d. per 2 oz. in addition to the ordinary postage. The time taken to Baghdad will be about twelve days, as against nine days by the existing fast service. The fee for the fast service will still be 3d. per ounce, in addition to the ordinary postage, which for letters for Iraq is 2½d. for the first ounce. Correspondence must be addressed "By Overland Mail, Haifa-Baghdad."

WILLS.

Sir Arthur Robert Anderson, C.I.E., C.B.E., of Roffey Place, Horsham, Sussex, late President of the Indian Railway Board, a director of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, who died on September 24, in his sixty-fifth year, left property of the value of £36,193, with net personalty £30,245.

The will of Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Powney Thompson (60), C.B.E., Indian Army (retired), of Mayfield, Torpoint, Cornwall, formerly of Ojamba, India, at one time an Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab, and afterwards Commissioner of the Multan Division (net personalty £16,935), has been proved at £17,457.

The Right Rev. Dr. Samuel Morley, D.D., of Sillwood, Redhill, Surrey, and late of Pembroke College, Cambridge, formerly Bishop of Tinnivelly and Madura, South India, and afterwards Archdeacon in Egypt, and who died on December 6, 1923, aged 82, left estate of the gross value of £1,768, with net personalty £1,135.

ANGLO-CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO PALESTINE.

In connection with the second Anglo-Catholic Congress pilgrimage to Palestine and the Near East, which began last Monday, when a party of 216 left London, a service of dismissal was conducted at St. Matthew's, Westminster, the previous day by the Bishop of Willesden.

The Bishop observed that the pilgrims would be in touch with the Eastern Church in its terrible times of anxiety and persecution. They lamented the fact that the Patriarch of Constantinople was not restored to that throne on which the Patriarchs had sat for 1,600 years.

The Greek Archbishop in London, the Metropolitan of Thyatira Germanos, who also addressed the congregation, said that as a result of the pilgrimage he felt sure that the desire would arise that the reunion of the Churches might be fulfilled as soon as possible, and that quarrels between Christians might cease. Among those present were the Bartobed of the Armenian Church in London, Archdeacon P. S. Waddy, late of Jerusalem, the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth, and representatives of the Russian Church.

The University of Lucknow have decided to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature on Professor M. B. Cameron, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Lucknow University, in recognition of his long and distinguished services to the cause of education in Oudh.

The Palestine Advisory Council has approved of the reduction of the tithe from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent. The agricultural community has long complained of what was considered heavy taxation, and this decision should materially relieve the situation, particularly as regards the Arab community.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Budget.

Some time before these Notes appear in print we shall know the best or the worst of Mr. Churchill's first Budget. There is not likely, as a matter of fact, to be anything about it that does not please; the only question is how far the Chancellor will go in relieving the taxpayer. It has been interesting to watch the Press in recent weeks and to note how, after some hesitation, practically all the dailies have come into line as to the certainty of some reduction in the income-tax. In view of the fact that the Conservative Party is obviously destined to enjoy a long tenure of office, it is natural to expect that Mr. Churchill will have drawn up the present Budget with a view to the elaboration of a connected policy with regard to finance over a period of at least four years, and if, as one can only reasonably assume, the relief as regards income-tax is limited on the present occasion to the nimble sixpence, some indication may be looked for as to the probable course of events in the future.

Increasing Trade of the Sudan.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for January show a marked increase as compared with the total for the same month in 1924, the figures being £E676,855, as against £E614,241. Imports, which amounted in value to £E407,884, showed only a slight increase, but the value of exports was £E236,850, an increase of £E51,659. Of course, the figures for a given month cannot be taken as a sound indication of a tendency, but the decrease in the adverse balance of trade revealed in these figures is an index of the gradual improvement of economic conditions in the Sudan.

Bank of Athens.

The balance-sheet of the Bank of Athens for the past year shows a most noteworthy expansion of business. The paid-up capital of the bank was increased in 1924 from 48,000,000 drachmæ to 72,000,000 drachmæ, while the reserves were raised from 20,000,000 drachmæ to 28,000,000 drachmæ. While the additional working capital was not fully utilised until the second half of the year, the improvement in the net earnings has been such that it has been possible to maintain the distribution for a third year in succession at 25 per cent. and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share. The balance-sheet totals at 1,412,157,800 drachmæ, as compared with 1,151,485,557 drachmæ, while there is again a marked increase in deposits. Incidentally, the declaration of the bonus in sterling is due to the desire to secure foreign shareholders a return in a more stable currency than the drachma.

Improving Conditions in Turkey.

On another page in this issue will be found an interesting report of Messrs. C. J. Giraud, of Smyrna, reviewing the past season's business in sultanas and figs, and generally passing in review the conditions in the Smyrna province. While it is pointed out that at this early date it is impossible to say much regarding the prospects for the 1925-26 sultana crop, it is stated that there is no reason at present for expecting any material reduction in yield in consequence of the winter's drought. The position with regard to figs is much the same. Messrs. Giraud draw attention to the steady improvement that has taken place in agricultural conditions in the province during the past two years. The Turkish farmers and peasants are working hard, and they are being helped in every way by the Government. "Agricultural banks and schools, the distribution of tractors, ploughs, etc., on easy terms of payment and other facilities, improving conditions of transport, etc., are contributing to the development in progress. Last autumn the vineyards and fig orchards produced the largest yields recorded since 1913, over 80,000 tons of figs and various kinds of raisins having been harvested." It is a most encouraging picture, and seems to show that those who anticipated that it would be many years before Smyrna regained its pre-War importance may prove to be greatly mistaken. Certainly this praiseworthy zeal for hard work displayed by the ordinary Turk is of the best possible augury for the future of the country, and nothing could do more to restore the confidence of other countries in Turkey than the knowledge that the country is making steady progress on the arduous road to economic recovery.

British Trade with Greece.

Quite an encouraging note is struck by the report on Greek trade which is given in another column. It is somewhat of a novelty for one of our correspondents to be able to chronicle the fact that British exports to one of the Balkan countries are on the up grade. In the case of Greece the improvement has been such that for the first half of 1924 this country headed the list of importers to the Greek market. It is to be hoped that British traders as a whole will draw the correct deduction from this: that it is not impossible for Great Britain to hold her own with other countries in the Near East markets, and that they will show a little more determination in future in regard to the Balkan markets generally.

COMMENTATOR.

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PERSIAN RAILWAY PROJECTS

[Concluded.]

(From a Correspondent.)

About twenty years ago the Russian Government, being anxious to have a harbour on one of the Southern Seas, proposed to build a railway from Teheran via Kom, Kashan, Yezd, and Kerman to Bundar-Abbas, on the Persian Gulf. However, in view of the fact that the technical difficulties in the mountains north of Bundar-Abbas would be very serious, and as there was not a satisfactory harbour at Bundar-Abbas, this project was abandoned, and the route from Kerman via Bam and Bampur to the Bay of Tchahbar was surveyed. The terrain on this line was more favourable, as no serious obstacles are presented to railway construction. Further, this way from Teheran to Tchahbar would be the shortest route, traversing Central Persia and linking up Russia and the Caspian Sea with the Indian Ocean. This line would pass the fertile plains of Kom, Kashan, Ardistan, Nayin, Rafsinjan, and Kerman, and a very good harbour could be constructed at the bay of Tchahbar.

Kizil—Tchahbar.

At about the same time a party of Russian engineers explored the country between the station of Kizil-Arvad, on the Trans-Caspian line, Meshhed, Seistan, and Tchahbar. Besides some serious difficulties presented by the terrain, this line, with the exception of the environs of Meshhed and the district of Seistan, would have to pass through country sparsely populated, poorly cultivated, and for the most part desert.

Baku—Asterabad.

It would perhaps seem premature to speak about a railway in this direction; but, considering that on the whole of the south-western and southern coasts of the Caspian Sea there are only the two harbours where ships can safely anchor, one at Enzeli and the other at the Asterabad Bay, whereas at the other ports of the coast, such as Lenkoran, Astara, and Meshhediser, there is only an anchorage in the open sea, such a line would be most desirable, especially as there are hardly any difficulties of construction to be anticipated. It must also be emphasised that the whole country has practically no real roads to link up the different towns and ports with the rich and fertile country places; on the other hand, the barren country around Baku would profit by it immensely, and should the oilfields, reported to exist in the provinces of Gilan and Mazanderan, prove paying concerns, it would be most advantageous to connect them up with the oil region of Baku, and by this way with the Black Sea and Europe.

The line would have to pass from the station Adji-Kabul of the Baku—Tiflis Railway to the town of Saliani, in the environs of which there are also oilfields. From here the line would run to Lenkoran, with its wooded hills and mountains; then along the coast, traversing the fertile plain, to the towns of Astara, Resht, Lahijan, Lengerud, Amol, Barferush, Sari, and Ashref to Asterabad.

Gilan and Mazanderan, with their warm and damp climate, have every prospect of developing into a flourishing region. Besides rice, cotton, silk, tobacco, oranges, etc., could be produced. The splendid forests on the hills could provide excellent timber and different valuable woods for export to Southern Russia, where wood is scarce, and even to Europe.

Baghdad—Hyderabad.

Before the project of the Baghdad—Nushki Railway was discussed, it was proposed to construct a line from Baghdad along the left bank of the Tigris to Basrah and Mohammerah, then through Persian Arabistan and the Dashtistan to Bushire, Lingeh, Bundar-Abbas, the Bay of Tchahbar, and through Baluchistan to Hyderabad, so joining the European lines to the Indian railway system.

No serious difficulties of terrain are to be expected on this route, but nearly the whole country this railway would have to traverse is poorly populated and unproductive. Further, on some desert tracks there is a great scarcity of fresh water, and the heat in summer is quite insupportable. As there was hardly any prospect that this long line could ever become a paying concern, the project was given up.

Kazvin—Hamadan.

As a compensation for a British road concession, the Russians obtained a concession for a road from Kazvin to Hamadan, and they succeeded in making a very good track, which traverses the fertile plains of Kazvin and Sarderud-Daregazin, and only the high Karaghan mountains and the pass of Sultanbulagh would be a serious obstacle for a railway construction on this route.

Teharan—Shahabdulazem.

The Russian contractor, L. Poliakoff, received, among others, concessions for the tramway lines of Teheran and a narrow-gauge railway from that city to the place of pilgrimage, Shahabdulazem, situated about six miles to the south-east of Teheran, on the ruins of the ancient town of Rhages or Rei. The tramways and the railway have now been working for over twenty years, and have yielded a good return.

As already mentioned, the difficulties of railway construction in Persia consist principally in the elevation of the tableland over the surrounding country and the high rocky mountain ranges which border the tableland. At the same time it is essential to commence the construction of railways at one or other of the frontiers, so as to be able to bring the necessary building materials into the country. At some places the question of water supply would have also to be taken into consideration as there are many desert, waterless tracts of land to be traversed which cannot possibly be avoided. The most important question would be that of fuel, which only exists in abundance in the shape of wood and coal, in the northern provinces of Gilan and Mazanderan.

In February, wheat and rye grain were imported by Czecho-Slovakia to the amount of 10.580 tons, compared with 14,244 tons in the same month last year. Flour and other milled products were imported to the extent of 32,045 tons, against 25,625 tons in February, 1924.

A provisional commercial agreement has been signed between Greece and Austria. Greece grants Austria a reduction of customs duty on the import of figs, raisins, olive oil and spirituous wines, while Austria undertakes to purchase annually 300,000 kilograms of Greek tobacco.

During the first half of the current sugar season (October to March), 712,915 tons of sugar have been exported from Czecho-Slovakia, compared with 429,187 tons in the same period last year, and some 25,000 tons more than was exported during the whole of last season. The exports were consigned to the following destinations:—Austria, 58,920 (tons of unrefined sugar): Hamburg (transit), 195,495; England, 120,198; Switzerland, 55,803; Italy, Trieste, Fiume, 220,372; other countries, 62,127. The total production up to March 31 was 1,413,836 tons, compared with 991,351 in the same period last season.

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BRITISH TRADE WITH GREECE INCREASING.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

The import trade of Greece during the first six months in 1924 amounted in value to 3,117,760,775 drachmæ, the exports representing 1,514,396,510 drachmæ. Compared with the figures of the corresponding period in 1923, last year's imports show a decrease of 102,841,894 drachmæ, while the exports have increased, on the contrary, by 623,580,148 drachmæ.

More than half of the imported goods was discharged at the port of Piræus, which thus heads the list with 1,675,645,111 drachmæ. Salonika comes next with 638,800,837 drachmæ, Patras is third with 215,146,614 drachmæ, Volo following with 124,842,021 drachmæ.

Kavalla comes first in the exports, the value of goods exported from that port during the period being 369,890,336 drachmæ. Patras follows with 208,681,932 drachmæ, Salonika being third with 158,192,818 drachmæ; Volo comes next with 121,203,394 drachmæ, and Dedeagatch next with 108,990,401 drachmæ. Exports from the port of Piræus only amounted to 98,241,567 drachmæ.

It is pleasing to note that Great Britain has regained her former position as chief importer to the Greek markets, the figures being as follows (in drachmæ):—United Kingdom, 524,434,356; U.S.A., 425,808,443; Italy, 336,317,938; Canada, 313,918,032; France, 260,732,338; and Germany, 194,047,104.

Germany heads the list in Greece's export trade, the goods exported to that country during the first half of 1924 amounting to 441,919,902 drachmæ. The U.S.A. comes next with 358,323,530 drachmæ, Italy is third with 186,793,290 drachmæ, while Great Britain is fourth with 146,838,223 drachmæ.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET FOR MOTORS.

Continued optimism is the dominant sentiment in the Egyptian motor trade, with regard to the second quarter of 1925 (says an American consular report). Sales of both low-priced and medium-priced cars are expected to increase over the corresponding quarter of last year. Unusually high prices realised this season for Egyptian cotton in the world's markets have brought the motor-car within the reach of the average prosperous fellaheen. Besides this basic wealth, another factor influencing increased car sales is the gradual expansion of touring areas, through systematic improvement of main roads throughout the country. Several makes of foreign cars were introduced for the first time early in 1925. Bus sales are being curtailed by the Government's refusal to issue operating licences in certain districts until legislation controlling bus operation has been promulgated; but this situation is only temporary. In motor cycles, British makes continue to hold the upper hand, through horse-power, light construction, and low prices.

An American report from Athens states that, according to dealers, the first quarter of 1925 has shown unusual activity in the Greek motor market, with American makes far in the lead. Bus and truck traffic is steadily growing, owing chiefly to the inadequacy of the railways. Taxi traffic is also developing in the Athens district, with the demand centering on small light models. The outlook for the second quarter is good, for the coming months are the best selling season of the year, but the market is now heavily stocked and dealers are more cautious, owing to recent fluctuations of the drachma. The market for light vans and accessories is promising, but that for motor-cycles is inactive.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKETS.

The "Manchester Cotton Trade Review" of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended April 25 states:—

No sign of a revival of demand has shown itself during the past week, and the industry continues to experience a very slow state of affairs. Traders endeavour to console themselves with the thought that cotton goods are wearing out every day, and that consequently a demand must return sooner or later. This, of course, is cold comfort, but it appears to be the best available at the moment.

The conference of representatives of the various sections of the trade, which was resumed on Wednesday last, has not yet come to any practical conclusions, but it has decided to make itself a permanent organisation, and it is thought that such a permanent committee ought to be very helpful.

Yarn.—The experience of most spinners of American yarns during the past week has been one of continued disappointment. Whilst business of a patchy nature has been done, it appears only too evident that confidence in the stability of present prices is not established. There has been no great activity in Egyptian spinnings, but the tone continues to be a little brighter than recently.

Cloth.—Business of importance is still lacking in this section of the trade, and the large markets, which are its main support, have been very disappointing. There has perhaps been a little more inquiry from India without, however, any increase in business, and one hears opinions repeatedly expressed that the present high costs of production, particularly in the latter stages, are one of the main obstacles to progress.

Raw Cotton.—The American market is now beginning to show increasing interest in the weather reports from the United States. Spinners' operations are on a small scale in view of the quiet state of trade, and such fluctuations as occur are usually within narrow limits, according to whether the news from America is favourable or not.

In Egyptian cotton there has been an advance of $\frac{3}{4}$d. per lb. on the week. The position here is still not settled, but it is at least something that the very wide fluctuations of the last two or three months are not being repeated. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 13.40; Egyptian fully good fair, 31.60.

It is reported that the directors of the Ottoman-American Development Company confirm the report that they have approved the offer of a British syndicate to take over the Chester concessions in Turkey.

The Law of Obligatory Composition of April 28, 1916, and the regulations relating thereto, which were made applicable to the whole of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom in 1921, have been repealed for the whole of the Kingdom with effect from April 1, 1925.

According to the Czecho-Slovak Press Bureau, negotiations are in progress for the formation of a Czecho-Slovak shipping company with headquarters at Hamburg, where Czecho-Slovakia is entitled under the Peace Treaties, to a harbour zone; river navigation is already provided for by the Czecho-Slovak Elbe, Danube, and Oder Navigation Companies, but the need is felt for a concern to deal with overseas traffic.

The motor-car exhibition which is now being held at Prague is the seventeenth of the series, and besides giving an opportunity of seeing what is going on in this branch in other countries (some fifty foreign makes of motor-cars and twenty-three makes of English motor-cycles are on show), the exhibition also reflects the progress that is being made in Czecho-Slavakia both in the manufacture and in the use of motor vehicles. There are at the present moment some 22,660 such vehicles in use in Czecho-Slovakia compared with 15,058 a year ago. Czech manufacturers have begun to secure a footing in foreign markets, in Austria, Poland, Hungary, and Germany. To the four makes of Czecho-Slovak cars a fifth has been added recently by the Skoda Works.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania).

The report of Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) for the year to September 30, 1924, states that the company's commercial representative in Bucharest died on March 31 last. In consequence, the completion of the accounts in Roumania has been delayed, and it is not possible to present them with the report. In May last the chairman, managing director, and the consulting engineer visited the property with a view to speeding up the work, and when they left Roumania at the end of May it was confidently anticipated that oil would be reached at the end of June. Difficulties, however, arose which delayed the work, and it was not till March 27 that the directors were able to announce that No. 8 well had struck oil. Connection has been made from this well to one pipe-line near the western boundary of the property and to another pipe-line near the eastern boundary. Storage by means of earthen reservoirs and steel tanks to a capacity of about 3,500 tons has been provided, and, in addition, arrangements have been made for the storage of a further 4,000 tons of oil on a neighbouring property. A contract for the sale of oil has been entered into at satisfactory prices. No. 8 well has now brought in oil under very great pressure, and is under control. There is every indication that this will be a large well. Hitherto the existence of the meotic oil sands has not been proved on the southern side of the Moreni salt mass, which lies on the eastern flank of the company's Gura Ocnitei area. In consequence, the drilling of a well on the S.E. corner of the company's property—that is, on the southern side of the salt mass—was in the nature of a speculation, justified by the fact that, if the meotic oil sands were reached, it would indicate that these sands underlie the whole of the company's property, and its value would in consequence be greatly enhanced. The directors were therefore particularly gratified at being able to announce on April 6 that oil had been struck in this well (No. 4). This development, from the company's point of view, is of the very greatest importance. Having now definitely proved that the company's Gura Ocnitei property, on which there is room for a large number of wells, is of great value, the directors have under consideration plans for its rapid exploitation, in order that the revenue which may be expected from the two completed wells may be supplemented at the earliest possible moment. Meanwhile the drilling of well No. 3 will be continued, and a further well (No. 7) has already been commenced with the rotary pump moved from well No. 8. In view of geological and other experience gained from the work already accomplished, it is anticipated that, subject to unforeseen difficulties, the time occupied in completing the drilling of future wells should not exceed nine months.

Steaua Romana (British).

The report of Steaua Romana (British) for the year to June 30, 1924, states that the accounts include the revenue earned by this company on its holding in the Steaua Romana (Bucharest) Co. in the preceding financial year of that company. The profit amounts to £81,759, which, with the balance brought forward, £207,608, makes a total (subject to taxation) of £289,367. Out of this, the amount of the profit representing deferred interest on the advance to the Roumanian Banking Group has been transferred to a special account. This interest (subject to taxation) amounts to £187,367, leaving an available balance of £102,000, which the directors recommend dealing with as follows:—Writing off one-half of the preliminary expenses, viz., £17,898, paying a dividend on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, 1924, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum (less tax), which will absorb £46,500, and carrying forward a balance of £37,602, out of which income-tax, the amount of which has not yet been finally agreed, will require to be met. The directors report that under the terms of a new agreement lately concluded between the Roumanian Government, the Steaua Romana Co. (Bucharest), the Roumanian Group, the Steaua Francaise, and this company, important rearrangements have been made with regard to the amount advanced by this company to the Roumanian Group. Henceforth the Steaua Romana will assume responsibility for the repayment of one-half of this amount within a period of ten years, with interest payable half-yearly in sterling at 6½ per cent. per annum in the meantime, and will allocate to the service of interest and amortisation of this obligation a portion of the production to be derived from the State Lands recently allotted to it. As compensation for their services in this connection an extension of twenty years has been conceded to the Roumanian Group as regards the final date for liquidation of the balance of the advance, which will carry interest payable half-yearly in sterling at the same rate, viz., 6½ per cent. per annum. In both cases the periods for repayment may be shortened in certain events.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company proposes a dividend for 1924 at the rate of 9d. per share.

The Oriental Gas Company announces an interim dividend of 3½ per cent., less tax, payable May 30.

Sir Davison Dalziel has been appointed president of the International Sleeping-car Company. For more than twenty-five years he has been a director and president of the managing committee.

The South Indian Railway Company announces an interim dividend from surplus profits of 2 per cent., less tax (compared with 2 per cent. paid on July 1, 1924), making a total distribution for the half-year of 3¾ per cent.

Mr. Alastair Cameron, a director of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, has been appointed Deputy-Chairman of the Board. Mr. C. E. Malkinson and Mr. R. Nicholson have been appointed assistant general managers, with effect as from April 1.

Persian Government 5 per cent. Sterling Loan, of 1911.—The numbers are announced of 165 bonds, amounting to £9,220, which have been drawn by lot for redemption on May 15 next, from which date they cease to bear interest.

The Zivnostenska Bank, Prague, the leading Czecho-Slovak bank, has issued its balance-sheet for the past year. The net earnings for the year amount to Kc. 43,151,502, equivalent to a 21½ per cent. return on the paid-up capital (Kc. 200,000,000). A dividend of Kc. 24 per share (12½ per cent.), compared with Kc. 28 per share (14 per cent.) last year, is proposed.

A provisional treaty of commerce has been concluded between Denmark and Czecho-Slovakia to remain in force till a definitive treaty is signed. The interim treaty is based on the most-favoured-nation treatment, and may be terminated by either party at three months' notice.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud, in a report dated April 15, state :—

A review of the past season's business can now be given, supported by official figures which permit of statistical results based on accurate information, thus dispelling the uncertainties of the past and shedding some light on the possibilities of the future.

Sultanas.

Reporting a year back at this date, we then stated that the results of the 1923-24 crop had belied all earlier expectations. In fact, the yield, which before the season had been estimated at 20-25,000 tons, actually reached no less than 39,700 tons. Reporting in July, 1924, on the prospects of the 1924-25 crop, we advised that the estimate of the coming yield at that date varied between 38,000 to 45,000 tons. Actually it has proved about 47,500 tons.

We give below the statistical position and distribution (in tons) :—

Arrivals on the Smyrna market, 45,500; sales, 44,000; stock on Smyrna market, 1,500; estimated stocks in the interior, 2,000; estimated total existences, 3,500. Thus, on the basis of these figures, the 1924 crop will total about 47,500 tons, as against the 1923 crop, assessed at 39,700 tons.

The distribution has been as follows :—London, 5,570; Liverpool, 4,700; Hull, 70; Glasgow, 850; Bristol, 710—11,900; North Continent, 25,500; U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and South Continent, 4,600—42,000; local consumption and distillery, 2,000; stocks still remaining estimated at 3,500—total 47,500.

Little can be said at this early date on the prospects of the 1925-26 crop. Considerable apprehension was entertained during the winter months owing to drought, which persisted throughout the four months November to February. Fortunately, the country has benefited from useful and well-distributed rains in March. Reports on the condition of the vines are favourable, and at present there is no reason to apprehend any material reduction in the yield as a consequence of the winter's drought. Atmospheric conditions henceforward will be the governing factors in the eventual result.

Figs.

The actual arrivals at Smyrna have been about 240,000 bags, or the equivalent of 25,000 tons. The entire quantity has been marketed, and no stock remains here.

The exported distribution is as follows (in tons) :—London, 8,700; Liverpool, 3,250; Hull, 100; Glasgow, 480; Bristol, 270; North Continent, 1,500; Australia and New Zealand, 420; U.S. and Canada, 9,400—total, 24,120 tons.

Our remarks on the prospects of the 1925-26 sultana crop apply in like manner to figs. It is too early to form an opinion on the extent of next season's yield, but, generally speaking, there is no cause to anticipate other than normal conditions at present.

General Outlook.

An evolution making for steady progress and improvement in agricultural conditions has been noticeable during the past two years. The upheaval caused in this province by the events of 1922 naturally caused a marked setback, and temporarily disorganised the trade movement of the Port of Smyrna, the main disturbing factors having been the destruction of the principal towns and villages in the country, of a large part of the town of Smyrna itself, and the expulsion of the Christian population, for the most part engaged in the cultivation of the soil. It is no surprise, therefore, that serious apprehensions have been entertained during the past two years about the fate of the crops, and that earlier estimates have erred on the side of caution, full allowance having had to be made for altered conditions and the loss of population.

As we have constantly pointed out in our reports, the Turkish farmer and peasant have worked hard to revive cultivation and to develop the agricultural resources of the province, and their efforts are being seconded by Government help and assistance in all possible directions. Agricultural banks and schools, the distribution of tractors, ploughs, etc., on easy terms of payment and other facilities, improving conditions of transport, etc., are contributing to the development in progress. Last autumn the vineyards and fig orchards produced the largest yields recorded since 1913, over 80,000 tons of figs and various kinds of raisins having been harvested. Railway traffic receipts are also showing substantial improvement. The outlook at present for all the crops grown in the province is favourable. Good rains have fallen all over the country, and the area of cultivation, more especially of cereals, is estimated to be about three times that of last year. We are confident that, if weather conditions prove favourable, the aggregate yield of the crops this summer will again show a very material increase on the preceding twelve months.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Jaffa, April 4.—Heavy rains fell during the week, which will result in a great improvement in the growing crops. Orange prices remain unchanged.

Basrah, March 28.—The market remains quiet. Owing to the beginning of Ramazan there has been some business in colonial produce. News from the interior regarding the crops has been encouraging.

Haifa, March 14.—The cereal market is still active. Offers and orders are numerous, but there are more of the second than of the first, so that prices remain firm.

Haifa, March 21.—The cereal market has been quiet this week, and prices are unchanged.

Teheran, March 21.—This week has ended with the eve of the Norouz holidays, so the bazaar, already stagnant, has become very quiet. There is hope of an improvement after the holidays. There is no change in the exchange.

It is reported that the Egyptian Ministry of Communications has approved the purchase of railway waggons for an amount of £E280,000.

The Czecho-Slovak Press Bureau states that negotiations are in progress for the construction of a large wireless station at Prague which would join up with the Madrid-London-Moscow triangle.

A circular issued to the Roumanian Customs Houses by the Ministry of Finance states that the following sums of money may be freely carried out of Roumania by travellers :—French or Belgian francs, or Italian lire, 2,000; Swiss francs, 1,000; Czech crowns, 3,000; Greek drachmæ, 5,000; Bulgarian levas, 10,000; Serbian dinars, 6,000; Austrian shillings, 600; Polish zloty, 500; German rentenmark, 400; Turkish pounds, 200; Dutch florins, 200; dollars, 100; pounds sterling, 20; and Hungarian crowns, 7 million. The circular states that if a passenger entering Roumania asks the Customs officials to stamp on his passport or other document the amount of money he brings into the country, the Customs officials must comply with his request.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended April 16, state :—

The Sakel market has continued to decline during the past week; on the other hand, the Ashmouni market has been comparatively steady. The net changes on the week are as follows :—Sakellaridis : $2.70 down for May, $2.55 down for July, $0.90 down for November, $0.95 down for January. Ashmouni : $0.20 down for April, $0.55 down for June, $0.50 down for August, $0.20 down for October.

In spite of the heavy drop of the last three weeks there has been no improvement in the demand for Sakel. The advance in prices during recent months cut down consumption considerably, and even with a more reasonable level of prices it will require some time to get spinners back to this variety. One must not, however, lost sight of the fact that the statistical position is extremely strong, and even with consumption at the present rate there will not be much Sakel left over at the end of the season. Spot cotton is very strongly held, and with the market oversold, any improvement in the demand will probably mean a sharp reaction. The Ashmouni market is in quite a different position to that of Sakel. This variety continues to enjoy a fairly good demand, and prices have accordingly kept steady. The selection on the spot is not good, and very high premiums are asked for the good grades. At the April 2 tender 750 krs. dockets were issued. New crop business has been small, but these options have now reached a fairly reasonable level, and we would recommend our spinner friends to cover any new crop business they may put through. The week's receipts amount to 22,934 krs., against exports 52,237 krs.; the stock stands at 1,206,222 krs.

Spot.—Owing to the holidays, Minet-el-Bassal has only been open three days this week. Demand from abroad is on a very limited scale, and only a poor business has resulted. Sales amount to about 3,100 B/s, of which we estimate 1,300 B/s Sakel, 1,450 B/s Uppers, 250 B/s Zagora, and 100 B/s various other growths.

Sakellarides.—A limited demand has been met with in all grades. Spot differences are generally dearer, especially Good and better, which have been in request at very good prices, but are only offered in small quantities. It is now becoming really difficult to find desirable cotton in the grades from Fully Good Fair upwards. The drop in contracts has caused a fair proportion of the already limited stocks of desirable cotton to be withdrawn from the market.

Ashmouni and Zagora have met with a fair business and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are generally unchanged.

Brown, Pilion, and White have been dealt in, but only a very small business has been done. Spot differences for Brown and Pilion are unchanged, whilst for White they are rather dearer.

Crop, 1925.—Progress has been affected in Lower Egypt by the rain and cold winds of the last fortnight, and the crop has now lost much of the early start; in fact, it may now be said to be a little behind last season. Considerable resowing will be necessary in some districts. Reports from Upper Egypt also are not very satisfactory; there has been rather more damage than usual from soreshin. The crop has, on the whole, not had such a good start as one would have wished, but we do not think that the setback is serious, at any rate, for the time being. Good climatic conditions from now on can do much to compensate the delay caused by the recent bad spell, and it is satisfactory to report that the weather has now again become settled.

The report of the Ministry of Public Works on the state of the river reads : The Bahr el Jebel was almost steady and a little below last year until the 24th of the month. After this date it rose with some fluctuations, but remained very much below the normal throughout the month. The White Nile fell very slightly throughout the month, and was a little above last year's levels until the 23rd, and identical with them for the rest of the month. It was on the whole much below the normal. The Blue Nile at Roseires fell slightly, but was a little above normal throughout the month. Its levels were identical with those of last year during the first fortnight, and below them during the second. No appreciable rise due to Abyssinian spring rains has yet occurred. At Khartoum the Blue Nile fluctuated slightly above last year's levels, and was below normal. The Main Nile at Wadi Halfa fell identically with last year until the 19th, and was a little above it for the rest of the month. It was below the normal throughout the month.

WANTED.

HAIR of every description wanted. Cow body hair, cow tail hair, horse hair. Send samples and prices—M. JAFFE, 21 & 23 Brasenose Road, Bankhall, Liverpool.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Roumanian gold co-efficient for Customs duties has been raised from 30 to 40.

Contracts have been placed by the Egyptian State Railways for wheels and axles with the Krupp and Linke-Hoffmann-Lauchhammer Works.

Six German firms have received Roumanian orders on Reparations account for locomotives and railway cars of the value of 16,200,000 marks.

It is reported that the Smyrna Municipality is contemplating the construction of a modern market hall and slaughter-house in the city and its suburb, Cordelio.

The annual dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Connaught Rooms on May 8. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will be the principal guest.

A treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania has been signed at Bucharest. The treaty relates to frontier intercourse between the two States and the legal conditions affecting property in the frontier zone.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture recently sent a specimen of the tobacco grown on its experiment lands to the Imperial Institute in London for examination, and a report has been received to the effect that the tobacco is of poor quality. It has now been decided by the Ministry to ask some tobacco experts from Kavalla to examine the tobacco.

The Greek Council for the Merchant Marine is reported to be working on a plan for the improvement of the country's entire merchant fleet (says an American Consular report). The Council will submit a bill providing for a subsidy on behalf of nearly all Greek vessels, so as to enable them to compete with foreign lines. Other bills will provide for docking facilities that would obviate the necessity for small boats and lighters.

The British Vice-Consul at Sofia reports that commercial circulars and also letters are frequently addressed to the British Vice-Consulates at Rustchuk and Philippopolis, which posts are at present temporarily closed. British firms who desire to address inquiries dealing with business in these districts should communicate with the British Consulate-General, Sofia, where they will receive attention. The Vice-Consulates at Varna and Bourgas remain open, and should be addressed directly, as heretofore.

A new Act is now in force in Czecho-Slovakia providing for a reduction of customs duty on certain specified classes of machinery and tools which are not manufactured in Czecho-Slovakia, and which it is important to obtain from abroad for various branches of industrial production and agriculture. Import under this measure is subject to the granting of a licence by the Ministry of Commerce, which, for the purpose of considering applications, will be assisted by committees of technical experts for textile, electrical, agricultural, and other machinery. The enactment applies to tariff class XL. (with exceptions), and the reduced duty is the basic tariff multiplied by co-efficient 4, instead of co-efficient 16 to 25.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

KHEDIVIAL MAIL'S NEW MOTOR BARGES.

The Khedivial Mail Line put into service recently on the Suez Canal six motor water-carrying barges of rather an interesting type (says a correspondent of the "Journal of Commerce"). The vessels are heavily constructed craft of 89 ft. 6 in. in length, with a beam of 22 ft., and a mean load draft of 9 ft. The displacement when loaded is 464 tons, and the deadweight carrying capacity 314 tons. In each vessel were fitted two four-cylinder 50 b.p.h. Thornycroft petrol-paraffin engines equipped with reducing reversion. The engines run at 750 r.p.m., whilst the propellers operate at 320 r.p.m., this being a very suitable speed for a flat-bottomed craft of full lines. At the forward end of each engine there is a Mather and Platt medium lift pump, which is geared to 2 to 1 —i.e., the pumps operate at 1,500 r.m.p.

When loaded to full capacity the vessels have a speed of 5½ knots, which is certainly very satisfactory, and is accounted for to a great extent by the adoption of reducing gears in conjunction with large diameter slow-speed propellers.

In official trials, under light conditions, a speed of seven knots was attained. The six barges made the run from Alexandria to Port Said under their own power. Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., it may be mentioned, have since received orders for two further twin-screw sets of 30 b.h.p. engines for installation in similar barges of smaller size.

NEW P. AND O. LINER.

With the departure from Tilbury for Australia last week of the new P. and O. liner the Comorin on her maiden voyage, two of the three vessels of this class, built for the company's Australia line via Suez, will be in service, and as soon as the third vessel is working the fortnightly service of the P. and O. between London and Australia will be re-established.

The Comorin's ports of call include Algiers and Port Sudan, and it is interesting to note that it has been decided that alternate P. and O. steamers shall call at the latter port in each direction. This is, of course, due to the rapid development of the Sudan, which is such as to call for the expansion of external communications.

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, May 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakand for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 6).

British India Line.—S.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 9); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 9).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Pittsburg for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 7).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, May 1); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 2).

Johnstone Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 2); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, May 5).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Passenger Engines.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of thirty five 4-4-2 type express passenger engines and tenders. May 16.

School Furniture.—The Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of school furniture required during the year 1925-6. June 6. (D.O.T.)

Paper, etc.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza Mudiriya, invites tenders for the supply of paper and chemicals for photostat for 1925-26. June 10.

Paper.—The Survey of Egypt, Ministry of Finance, invites tenders for the supply of 100 reams of machine-made ledger paper, size 30½ in. by 40½ in., and 400 reams of similar paper size 22½ in. by 36½ in. June 16.

Teak.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 400 cubic metres teak. June 30.

Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machinery for floating dock required for the Government Workshops, Bulâq. July 1.

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of pumping-plant and motors for a floating dock. July 1. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Insulated Wires.—The Department of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of insulated wires. —July 8 (D.O.T.).

It is proposed to inaugurate an Austro-Czecho-Slovak Chamber of Commerce at Prague.

The Palestine Advisory Council has approved of the reduction of the tithe from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent.

In connection with the Bratislava Danubian Fair, which will take place from August 23 to September 2, a horticultural show will be held. The Fair authorities have allocated an area of 7,000 sq. metres for the purpose of the show.

It is reported that the necessary capital for the proposed Czecho-Slovak Air Line has been promised by two engineering concerns, the Skoda Works and Laurin and Klement, and two aeroplane factories, the "Avia" and "Aero" Companies, of Prague.

After dropping to a low figure in January, Czecho-Slovak iron exports showed a considerable revival in February, when the figures were higher than in any month since the Ruhr occupation. The total export was 36,800 tons, compared with 29,700 in January and a monthly average of 31,000 in the second half of 1924. Exports to England, Switzerland, Italy, and Holland were above the monthly average of the past four years, while there was also an increase in the export to Germany. Over half the exports were finished goods, while semi-manufactured goods were 14 per cent. of the whole.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA, May 29. *OLYMPIA, June 26.
*CIRCASSIA, June 12. *CASTALIA, July 7

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14, MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia: and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

Complete Banking Facilities for the Near East.

The Only British Bank in Greece.

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SUBSCRIPTION ORDER.

To the Manager, THE NEAR EAST, 170, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Please forward THE NEAR EAST weekly for months.

Remittance enclosed.

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To be obtained at all Bookstalls.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.67.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinja, Kampala (Uganda)
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 730.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1925.

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"THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

In the preliminary announcement made last week regarding the impending change of title of this Journal, it was stated that a Section is to be devoted to the consideration of Indian affairs. It is hoped, in this Section, to serve the interests of India in general, and of Europeans in India in particular (since it is obvious to all but the most extreme of Indian politicians that the two are identical), and its policy will be to attempt to assist, on sane lines, all those who have the welfare of the country at heart, Europeans and Indians alike, in the pursuit of their common object—the political and economic development of India.

The problem that at present looms larger than any other is that of the next step in the Reforms, which, it may confidently be assumed, is already engaging the attention of Lord Birkenhead and Lord Reading. Though this next step is not due until 1929, it may reasonably be expected to be decided in the lifetime of the present Parliament and of the present Ministry, so that its examination is already a matter of practical politics, and the men who will decide it are already "on the spot." In particular they will have to decide to what extent European supervision must remain—whether it may safely be reduced or whether it should be strengthened; and, if the latter, the form that such strengthening ought to take—not necessarily in an increase in the number of the European personnel, but perhaps in some variation of the method in which their supervision is exercised.

Broadly stated, only three alternatives exist—the revocation of the Reforms and a return to the "benevolent despotism" of pre-Reform days: the continuation of the experiment on its present lines: and the recasting of the Reforms in an attempt to make them more suitable to India's needs. On one point all are agreed, that it is impossible to stand still—that there must be movement, in one direction or another. Though a considerable body of informed opinion regards with misgiving the policy which started India on the road to self-government, yet all, except a small minority, are agreed that there can be no going back. If it be admitted that it is necessary to move forward, the problem that matters is guidance along the right road. Those who desire the continuance of the Reforms on their present lines maintain that Dyarchy has not failed, and would work successfully if the Indian politicians would only consent to give it a fair trial. Those who wish to see a change in method put forward, as their main argument, the contention that the Reforms were instituted from the top and not from the bottom—an arrangement which they think ought to be reversed.

Those responsible for the Indian Section of this Journal will be at pains to obtain the most reliable information and the most intelligent appreciation of current events in India, and they confidently hope that the large number of persons in Great Britain who are directly interested and the very much larger number who are indirectly interested, will find in "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA," a reliable chronicler of facts and a sensible interpreter of their significance. The report of the Lee Commission has brought prominently to notice the difficulties of the British official in India; but there has, so far, been no serious attempt to put forward those of the non-official. The investment of an enormous amount of British capital in India is a material fact that is accessible to all who inquire about it; what is not so obvious, is the bearing which that fact has on the future of India. The political and the commercial future of India are so intimately connected that both must be considered together, as indivisible parts of the same problem, for the solution of which official and non-official must work in harmony; and it will be the task of "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA" to try to assist them in doing so; while its pages will provide the ordinary reader with information and comment that will, it is hoped, stimulate public interest in the vast and complex problem that awaits solution in India.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Cyprus.

Cyprus has so long been to all intents and purposes a British colony that the formal bestowal of that title upon it last week will occasion surprise in many quarters. The position of the island, however, has been anomalous ever since its occupation by Great Britain in 1878. In 1914 it was annexed to the British Empire, but no change was made in its administration; it remained under the jurisdiction of the Colonial Office, and its chief administrator retained the title of High Commissioner. It now becomes officially a Colony, and instead of a High Commissioner will have a Governor. At the same time certain changes will be made in the legislature. The Legislative Council has hitherto been composed of eighteen members, of whom six were official and twelve elected; of the twelve elected members three were Moslem and nine non-Moslem or Greek. Under the new system the representation of the non-Moslem electorate will be increased to twelve, and its representatives will thus have a clear majority in the Council. Other changes contemplated are the opening of a wider field of promotion to natives of Cyprus, who now become eligible for certain posts hitherto reserved for imported officials, and relief for the Cyprus Treasury from the annual burden of the Turkish tribute, a sum of £42,800, the balance, after the payment of a grant-in-aid by Great Britain of £50,000, of the annual sum of £92,800 charged to Cyprus for the benefit of the shareholders of the Ottoman Loan of 1855.

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Britain and the Cyprus Tribute.

Nothing short of union with Greece will go farther than the remission of this Tribute towards removing the grievances of the Greek inhabitants of Cyprus. By the terms of an Annex to the Convention of June 4, 1878, between Great Britain and Turkey, the British Government undertook to pay to the Porte annually a sum calculated on the excess at that time of the revenue over the expenditure in Cyprus. The amount was subsequently fixed at £92,799 11s. 3d.; but none of the money has ever been paid to Turkey. The interest on the 1855 Loan is £81,752, and the surplus from the Cyprus Tribute remaining after the debt charge has been satisfied has been invested, forming a separate fund. When it was found that the resources of the island were not equal to the payment of the whole amount, the Imperial Exchequer made good the annual deficit; but since 1907 the contribution of the latter has been in the form of a grant-in-aid of £50,000. It has not been easy to justify the Tribute in the past, and its abolition has long been overdue. Relieved of this burden, Cyprus may hope now to make up some of the leeway in regard to public works for which the straitened condition of its finances has been responsible. For many years the island suffered from official neglect; but there has been a satisfactory improvement of recent years. Whether the effect of the new measures will be to make the Greek inhabitants more contented with their lot or whether these will be regarded as an encouragement for renewed demands remains to be seen. The British Government has stated very clearly that it considers the question of union with Greece "closed"; it has, therefore, done well to follow up this announcement with measures designed to open up more scope for the inhabitants and to relieve the island of an unfair financial burden.

The Sofia Outrage.

The hope expressed in these pages that the heinousness of the Cathedral outrage in Sofia might be the means of restoring to Bulgaria a sense of national unity has been in some considerable measure realised by the stand taken by the Agrarian Union. This body has publicly dissociated itself from the chief Agrarians living abroad, whom it accuses of treachery towards the interests of Bulgaria. It declares that the Agrarian Movement, as a social force for peace and democracy, has to join itself to other legal political factions in order to save the country, and calls upon the party to make the necessary sacrifices. The Socialist leader has been even more emphatic in denouncing illegal terrors and inhuman outrages, and denies that anybody can see in terrorism "practised in a Satanic form" the expression of aspirations for democracy and liberty. In the meantime the court-martial appointed to try the men charged in connection with the explosion in the Cathedral has begun its sittings in open court, and although isolated collisions between Communists and the police are reported there are general indications that the authorities are once more masters of the situation.

The Labour Members' Report.

The report on the situation in Bulgaria issued by the Labour Mission consisting of Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., Mr. W. Mackinder, M.P., and Colonel C. L. Malone, has had an unsavoury development in a very rare occurrence for London. After a Labour May Day Meeting a body of men went in deputation to the Bulgarian Legation, outside which disorderly proceedings took place, while some of the leaders presented inside a protest against the persecution of Bulgarian workers. Rightly regarding this episode as a corollary of the Labour Mission's report, the Counsellor of the Bulgarian Legation devoted his remarks to that document. Of its authors one at least, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, has once had the status of a magistrate, and it would have been supposed that he was still capable of appreciating the value of evidence. For the purposes of a Labour report, however, accuracy and intelligence would not seem to be considered necessary. The mission stayed from two to four days in Sofia at a time when the capital was labouring under the unnerving outrage in the Cathedral and under fears that a further Communist blow might fall at any moment. The members saw a number of responsible people of all shades of opinion, with the exception of prominent Communists whom they were not allowed to visit in prision, but for the purposes of their report they rejected the evidence of those whom they are able to name, and reproduce the assertions of unnamed people which happen to coincide with the Bolshevist version of events in Bulgaria. It is fitting that the report of such a mission should be at once endorsed by a Labour May Day gathering, for whom it was more suited than for the official purposes of the Labour Party. Suffering apparently from a temporary fit of misgiving Colonel Wedgwood allowed his statement of six thousand arrests in two days in Sofia to be reduced in the report to four thousand, but May Day inspirers improved his figures to sixteen thousand, in their protest to the Legation. For the rest, the report drew a picture of conditions in Bulgaria that its authors must have known was bound to be either baseless or grossly exaggerated. Its assertions are riddled by later evidence, but it must go a long way to convince the people of Bulgaria and the Near East generally that, however high the prestige of official Britain and individual Britons may stand, there is a stratum in British politics not a whit better than what they can show in the Balkans.

Yugoslav Politics.

A further reconstruction of the Yugoslav Cabinet has taken place, but the expected inclusion of representatives of the Croat Peasant (Raditch) Party has not materialised. The position in regard to the negotiations between the Radicals and the Raditchists is set forth in detail in the interesting letter from a Zagreb correspondent that we publish on another page. Immediately after M. Pashitch had seen King Alexander and obtained the Royal consent for the reconstruction of the Ministry, M. Paul Raditch was received in audience, and from this fact we may infer that the negotiations between the two parties are still proceeding amicably. M. Pashitch cannot include Raditchists in his Cabinet without doing violence to the tenets of the Independent Democrats under M. Pribitchevitch, his present Minister of the Interior. It is in the interests of Yugoslavia, therefore, that time should be given to M. Pribitchevitch to withdraw of his own accord; and before doing this, the latter will probably wish to be given time to prepare a welcome for himself among one or more of the Opposition parties.

INDIA.

Politics in Bengal.

So far as current politics are concerned, public interest is for the moment again centred on Bengal, where Mr. C. R. Das is meeting his party, or what was his party, in the so-called Provincial Conference at Faridpur. According to the correspondents his position has undergone a remarkable change. A few weeks he stood out as the indisputable leader of the party which, if not the most numerous, was certainly the best organised, and the most effective in the province. Now we are told that he is the loneliest public man in Bengal, that he has neither friends nor followers left, and that in six months he will be finally submerged. We hesitate to accept this forecast, because, whatever may be thought of his opinions, there is no doubt of his capacity, and hitherto no competitor of anything like his calibre has come into view, but the mere fact that such a forecast should be put forward shows the magnitude of the change which has occurred. It is obviously connected with his recent offer to co-operate with the Administration, of course on his own terms, but what the Indian papers have so far not disclosed is the precise sequence of events. Did the offer of co-operation disgust his party, or was the offer made when he found that his party was slipping out of his control? Much depends on the answer to that question.

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The Attitude of Mr. Das.

It would be useless to speculate on this question, which will possibly be answered by the course of the proceedings at Faridpur by the time these words are printed. At the moment we have only extracts from Mr. Das' presidential address, which naturally do not touch this point, but are interesting in other directions. We know already that he had abandoned the policy of pure obstruction, and he has now made it plain that he accepts the idea of India as a Dominion within the Empire. Where he seems to differ from other advanced politicians is in the emphasis he lays on the particularist side. He conceives the new Dominion as "a federation of the States of India, each free to follow its own culture and traditions, each bound to each in the common service of all," a perfectly reasonable ideal, but one which it is difficult to reconcile with the aspirations of the North and West, as expressed by their elected representatives at Delhi. Looking ahead, one can easily see that when the question of prediction becomes an actuality, Bengal, which for so many centuries stood aloof from the rest of India, will be a champion of "State rights," standing by the side of Madras against the centralising forces of Delhi and Bombay. The discussions will be interesting when they come, but they are still some way off, and for the present we must be content to welcome Mr. Das in his new role as an Imperial Statesman.

The Sikh Question.

According to the cables, the prospects of a settlement by consent of the questions which have agitated the Sikh community for so long have become clouded during the last week. The position is one with which India is unhappily familiar, a well-organised and vocal minority insisting on the acceptance of its views by the amorphous and politically inexpert majority. The draft Bill is essentially a reasonable compromise, giving the community as a whole control over the shrines and endowments, but safeguarding existing rights by the establishment of competent tribunals. The amendments proposed by the violent extremists altogether disturb the balance of the compromise, and would make it possible for a minority to capture the whole organisation, while there are also extremists on the other wing, who join in opposing the Bill for diametrically opposite reasons. The question now is whether the majority of moderate and reasonable men have yet reached the point where they can hope to impose their will on the protagonists: unless they have, we must be prepared for a continuance of the weary disputes.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Budget.

There has been a good deal of gaiety over the Budget, both inside and outside the House. Of the Budget speech itself, those who heard it appeared to judge in accordance with their party opinions, but for the most part people are agreed that it was a personal triumph for Mr. Winston Churchill. But the sequel in the Commons was rather amusing, for both the wilder men of the Labour Party and the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to lose their tempers over a reference to the increase, in spite of better trade, in the numbers of unemployed. It is extraordinary how a Budget, of all things, can rouse party feeling. The truth is, however, that criticism of this Budget has, where it has not been purely selfish, been entirely on party lines.

Naturally, certain details may have to be altered. The "artificial silk" industry, for instance, is squealing hard, and anti-Churchill newspapers have been imploring their lady readers, who will have to pay more for their stockings, jumpers, and what not, to play their part in regard to the emotional Chancellor. In regard to this industry, Mr. Churchill was frank enough to admit that there might be a decline in consumption; upon which Mr. E. V. Knox, with sensible inevitability, remarked that there might be a decline in pneumonia as well.

Upon the fundamental change in the Budget—the return of the Gold Standard it is difficult without great learning to write. Various sharp differences of opinion are being revealed. The fear is expressed—even by the cautious Earl of Oxford and Asquith—that it might mean Britain's playing into the hands of "the banditti of international finance," and it is, quite certainly, a move that is very popular with international financiers. Whether, as has been also suggested, it implies that our national finances are to be bound even more closely to the financial system of America, is hard to determine. It is sufficient to say that if these things are true, neither the reduction of sixpence in the Income Tax, nor the restoration of the McKenna Duties, nor the policy of "all in" Insurance, will save the memory of this Administration from objurgation: one can but be hopeful that they are not so.

The Royal Academy.

The hundred and fifty-seventh exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts, which opened this week, is a much pleasanter, if no more exciting, affair to visit than it was last year. For one thing, there are fewer pictures hung, so that one's eyes are still in one's head at the end of it all, and one's neck and back are not cricked and strained as they were in 1924; and for another, there is no work that is crassly and clamantly bad, as there was last year. The "big" people, in fact, have in some cases (e.g., Russell Flint) improved; and the "small" people have been so carefully chosen as not to let them down.

Sargent, one supposes, will be the talk of Burlington House for the next few months; and, indeed, his "Marchioness of Curzon" alone deserves it. How the man could paint! There is, however, nothing fresh to be said on him.

If one had to pick out the finest painting of the year, one would say Mr. Glyn Philpot's "The Street Accident." It is true that from a literary or a psychological point of view one is a little disturbed by the contrast between the anguish on the woman's face as she kneels beside the inspired man and the hushed placidity of the spectators, but the tones of the painting are as precious, say, as the pedalling of Busoni. Mr. Philpot is a curious phenomenon. There is something going on with him—I am not competent to state whether it is a mental or merely a technical development. But if you look at his "Angel of the Annunciation" you will find a definite return to the idea of the pre-Raphaelites, even of Blake.

The portraits are good to look on, Sir William Orpen's being the best. The subject-picture, by this painter, by the way—"Man Versus Beast"—seems to be a mixture of the ideas of Hogarth and of Swift, but without the feeling of these two men.

The water-colours, with the exception of a couple by Mr. Gerald Ackerman, are on the dull side; and the drawings, engravings, and etchings are scarcely as varied as usual. One is glad to see Mr. Charles W. Cain's dry point of the Exchange Square in Baghdad has been ac-

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cepted. Great praise is being showered on Sir Edwin L. Lutyens' "Memorial to the Missing, St. Quentin," but I cannot tell why. It is, of course, masterly, but the comfort that its mausoleum shape and innumerable passages gives is almost wholly intellectual. The emotion that the Somme provoked has, it seems to me, been recollected in too great tranquillity.

Perhaps the chief surprise of this year's Academy is that Mr. A. J. Munnings has wrenched himself away from his exquisite and wearisome horses and made living creatures of them. For the rest, apart from the very eminent, one noticed with greatest pleasure works by Talmage, Madeleine Green, Philip Padwick, and Meredith Frampton.

Liberal Disagreements

The reception of the Budget in Parliament revealed clearly those divisions of the Liberal Party which the party newspapers so assiduously declare to be non-existent. It splits into three parts:—the small partlet led by Captain Guest, who approved of the Budget; the second group, led by Mr. Walter Runciman, who called it a "rentiers' Budget"; and the third party, which doubtfully blessed the return of the Gold Standard, but strenuously opposed that section of Mr. Churchill's proposals which may be called "Protective."

As if to emphasize the quarrels that are at the moment agitating the Liberal family, Sir Alfred Mond has just declared that he cannot find time to serve on the committee which is to supervise the great Liberal revival in this country. Now Mr. Vivian Phillips, a staunch Asquithite, happens to be chairman of this committee, and observers have not been slow to hint that had the chairman been more of a Lloyd Georgeite, the eminent Jewish financier would somehow have found time actively to help on a cause which he is credited as having near his heart. The Wee-Frees and the Nationals obviously have not yet composed their differences. And it is extremely doubtful whether they ever will.

The Future of the Church.

Last week a memorial on the question of authority in the Church of England was published, signed chiefly by eminent University men, and it may well be that future ecclesiastical historians will invest it with an importance apparently denied to it at the moment. The signatures of this memorial, basing their statement upon recent proceedings on the part of the Anglo-Catholics in the House of Clergy of the Church Assembly, consider that the historical character of the Church of England is at stake, and they condemn in particular the attempt by Anglo-Catholics to restore certain doctrines and practices which were deliberately excluded from the Church at the time of the Reformation.

This quarrel between what may loosely be called the Protestant Anglicans and the Catholic Anglicans has long been coming to a head; and it seems now to have burst. On which will win it is idle and, indeed, impossible to speculate. There are two things about this memorial which strike one at once. First, it is written moderately, and yet with conviction, and it contains such references to historical argument that one would be justified, in consideration of the way in which English history is usually taught in this country, in assuming that the case of those who would preserve the Anglican Church as it has existed for some centuries is quite unanswerable. In other words, it is a very English document, drawn up with an apparently shrewd knowledge of the English character. Secondly, it is to some extent theoretical, written, as even *The Times* admits, without taking into account all the relevant facts. For it is a fact that nationalism does not exist as it existed in the self-centred nineteenth century; and this is true of religion as well as of other matters. There are hundreds and hundreds of patriotic Englishmen who appear to be seeking out the larger loyalties, the sort of loyalty which the word "Catholicism" implicates. That this search should have been accompanied by much excessive and manifestly illogical (older observers might even say Bolshevist) practice is, perhaps, not a matter of surprise. It is, as the signatories to this memorial imply, an exceedingly difficult thing for the Anglo-Catholic to state precisely his (or her!) position, for that is the result partly of instinct and partly of intellectual persuasion. And that very fact makes it all the harder for the ordinary Anglican to battle against the new movement. But the "call to action" has gone out, and, since the Anglo-Catholics do not look like retreating, some sort of battle must ensue.

For those who wish to study the ecclesiastical tendencies of our time—it is hardly right to call them theological—a persual of this document is essential. There is no question that the "minority movement" in the Church of England may succeed in informing the shape of the Anglican Church, as it has so often threatened to do in the past; and it is for those who believe that principles of universal validity are taught and practised by the majority of the members of the Anglican Church to follow the appeal of the distinguished church dignitaries, headmasters, professors, and laymen who have published their fiat against modern practices. It may be premature, but it certainly is not wild talk, to mention the possibility of disruption, with a consequent swelling of the ranks of Rome and of the Nonconformists. Perhaps all that the mass of the clergy and of their congregations need is a lead.

Business Changes.

One had read of Cabinet Ministers who had never heard of their subject until they were told by their Prime Minister to study it, but one had not previously recognised the fact that businesses also were following this rather delightful method. It had so long been accepted in this country that the man who was to be head of a big business was to be the man who had been through the mill—the outside theoretician was as nothing to the capable practical man. Now, however, we see almost every day the triumph of the governing mind, the mind that has not since its birth been inclined in one particular way. The recent appointment of Sir Josiah Stamp, the eminent economist, as president of the Executive of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, exemplifies this. Academically trained men have, of course, been brought in by the railways before this, but I do not remember having heard of an economist in control before. The scheme has manifest advantages, the principal of which is the fact that difficulties arising from departmental amalgamation can so much more easily be smoothed over by an independent head; its disadvantages remain to be seen.

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THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker will lecture on "Air Routes in Asia," to the Central Asian Society tomorrow (May 8) at 5 p.m., in the Royal United Services Institution. Viscount Peel will preside.

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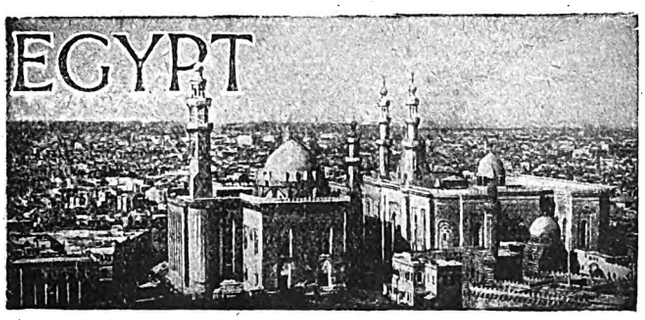
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents



Cairo, April 25.

A Holiday Season.

A period of eight days of which five have been holidays for many people and four for almost all does not leave much time for work, and for that reason the past week has been a rather dull one. Last Sunday was the Orthodox Easter, Monday was Shem el Nessim, the greatest popular holiday in the year, when, irrespective of race or religion, every resident of Egypt downs tools, and on Thursday began the three days Moslem feast which marks the end of the month of fasting. Almost inevitably, little progress has been made in Government offices which, in this country, are the source of almost all news. The five questions principally engaging the Government's attention at the present time are the inquiry into the murder of the Sirdar and into the previous political crimes, the future status of Jerabub, the Budget, the work of the Nile Water Rights Commission, and the framing of a new electoral law.

The Pursuit of Crime.

The Sirdar murder inquiry has been closed, and the charges, together with a summary of the confessions of the nine accured men, have been published. Now the Parquet is busy with investigation of previous crimes, and has arrested an employee of the State Railways who, if the Arabic Press is to be believed, is a man with a remarkable dual character. Apparently wrapped up in religion, he had made the pilgrimage to Mecca, thereby earning the title of *hajji*, and had become a religious leader in his part of the city. An excellent workman, he had never absented himself during twenty years of service except on some score of occasions during the past three or four years, when he had always first obtained leave to take a day's holiday. The authorities investigating the series of political murders first suspected this railway workman, Hag Ahmed by name, about two months ago, but, for lack of definite evidence, contented themselves with putting him under a close watch. As a result of inquiries during that period, it was discovered that his periodical absences from work during the last few years always coincided with some political crime. Next the police raided Hag Ahmed's house, and there discovered quite an armoury of lethal weapons. Hag Ahmed's arrest followed immediately and the Parquet officials have forgone their Bairam holiday in order to interrogate this remarkable sheikh, whose arrest, it is hoped, may be the forerunner of further important developments.

Prominent Questions.

The Budget has not yet been finally approved, and it is not now expected that it will be issued before the first week of next month. On the other hand, with the submission of its report by the Egyption commission sent to Jerabub, and with the probability of the Italian reply to the last Egyptian communication on the subject being handed to the Egyptian Government during the next few days, this question is likely to come into the limelight again in the very near future. The Nile Water Rights Commission is expected to conclude its work by the end of May. On the new electoral law little more is expected to be heard for many months.

The Sakkakini Affair.

Almost as much a centre of public interest as the Sirdar murder inquiry has been the litigation concerning succession to the estate of the late Count Henri Sakkakini. The remarkable story surrounding this affair, with its forgery of birth certificates, attempts to influence judges, and, finally the vitriol attack on the president of the Superior Mekhemeh Sheria, has already been referred to in this correspondence. Now the committing magistrate has sent for trial at the Assizes the principal actors in the drama and has at the same time committed for trial Hamed el Bessel Pasha, Vice-President of the Wafd, on a charge of obtaining release from a debt in return for a promise to influence the Sheria Court to decide the case in a particular way.

Early Move to Alexandria.

The Cairo season has lasted well into the Spring, and now the Alexandria season promises to open almost before the Summer is well begun. King Fuad is anxious to move as early as possible to his delightful palace at Montaza, and as soon as His Majesty goes to the seaside the Government will go also. The move is planned for the third week in May, a good month before the usual time, and as the Residency will also probably advance considerably its normal date of transference, it looks as though the Cairo dull season, always intolerably long, will this year run into the best part of six months.

Egypt and Foreign Advisers.

That the Egyptian Government is seriously considering permitting tobacco growing is indicated by the fact that an American expert is to be engaged to investigate and report on local prospects for the plant, of which consumption in this country, where almost everyone, ~~including~~ the women, smokes, is so high, while production, under the old agreement with the Turkish Government, has hitherto been prohibited. At the present time there is, in other branches as well as that of agriculture, a definite reaction from the policy of the Zaghloulist Cabinet, which sought to dispense with as many foreign officials as possible. Not only have many of the official who opted to leave on April 1 last been re-engaged on two-year contracts, but also several other experts, previously unconnected with Egypt, have been brought to lend their assistance in various departments, while in some administrations, especially in the railways, telegraphs, and telephones, there is a demand for still more. It is an interesting indication of the views of foreign officials here regarding probable future political developments that the large majority of the officials who

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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have been offered contracts have accepted them. Were it generally thought that a return to the conditions of 1924 might be expected, it would be difficult to get any foreign official to remain in the Government's service a moment longer than he could help.

Zagreb, April 30.

The Serbo-Croat Settlement.

The vast question of whether Croatia, under M. Raditch, would declare for peace or war with Serbia, has at last been settled by the statement that M. Raditch seeks conciliation with the Belgrade Government. It would, however, be a mistake to regard this step as an unqualified capitulation. For M. Raditch remained faithful to his principles. What he jettisoned was matter which certainly had brought him popularity with the electorate but was the *casus belli* between him and the Serbs.

The result of M. Raditch's decision was M. Pavle Raditch's great speech in the Skupshtina. The essential point of the speech was that the Raditch Party declared in favour of a monarchy on the British model, that it took its stand upon the law of the land, and that it broke off all relations with Moscow, though indeed these had been only academical. This momentous speech was actually made by M. Pavle Raditch; but M. Stephan Raditch may well be considered its spiritual father.

The decisive step was now taken and most handsomely acknowledged on the part of the Serbs. In consequence of this, the decision of the Verification Committee was dropped and most (at least) of the Raditch mandates were verified without further ado, or subjected only to a merely formal parliamentary inquiry.

The position looked distinctly rosy, and the settlement between Serbs and Croats appeared to be a matter of the next few days, when the first clouds rose on the horizon. For six full years the Radicals had represented M. Raditch to their adherents as the worst enemy of the Serbs. However glad everybody might be at the first moment at the thought that M. Raditch was now a friend, this joy was followed by the anxious question: But is M. Raditch really playing the game? Or is it all perhaps nothing but a cunning tactical move on the part of the Raditch Party, in order to get their leader out of prison and to show up the Radical Party as credulous fools before their adherents?

Difficulties of the Raditch Party.

This anxiety was the beginning of the second phase, from which the country has not yet emerged. M. Pavle Raditch's step was praised, there was rejoicing over the new departure of the Croats, but proofs of the sincerity of the new orientation were demanded. And then a fresh factor was added. Far too many individuals have been getting their livelihood out of the Serbo-Croatian differences, and for the sake of their bread-and-butter they did their best (or worst) to render the demanded proofs of sincerity difficult for the Raditch deputies, in order to prevent by all means a reconciliation of the foes of yesterday. These parasites of the Serbo-Croat quarrel held all the power in Croatia in their hands, and instead of appreciating the new policy entered upon by the Croats, they started worrying the adherents of M. Raditch, the object in view being to persuade them that it was futile to negotiate with Belgrade, since persecution continued.

This game was spoilt by M. Raditch himself, who suffered neither these intrigues nor other difficulties to turn him from the path he had resolved to take. Courageously and resolutely he set about furnishing the proof of his sincerity. The opponents of the settlement objected that it was true that M. Raditch and his immediate followers had declared in favour of the monarchy, but that it was an open question whether the rank and file of his electorate would follow their leader in his change of front. This question, too, was answered by M. Raditch in a manner both precise and convincing.

As a meeting of the central committee of the party was impossible owing to the *Obznana*, a general meeting of all agents of the Raditch Party was called in Zagreb. At this meeting the new policy of the party was unanimously approved. Part of the resolution passed embodies the following:

It was necessary that the Party should in some official form approve the new orientation of the party's policy, lest the Party lay itself open to the reproach that its new political course might be only a tactical move on the part of the leaders, whereas indeed it represents a fresh departure on the part of the whole Party. The Croatian Peasant Party has now done all in its power, and it is now the turn of the Radicals, as the strongest of the Serbian parties, to show whether they are serious in their desire for an agreement with the Croats.

M. Pavle Raditch's speech is universally approved of, more especially the passage in which he said that the speech was made in the name of the President, M. Stephan Raditch. Furthermore, he emphatically pointed out that the Croatian Peasant (Raditch) Party had never maintained relations with Moscow and would never establish any. He expressed full confidence in the Party's President, M. Stephan Raditch. The Party had no intention of putting difficulties in the way of a settlement between Serbs and Croats, and would on the contrary do its best to render possible the progress of the State in the sense of an enlightened and liberal democracy.

These statements were yet further confirmed and amplified by M. P. Raditch, acting president of the Party. The Croats—he said—were prepared to let the question of the Constitution stand over for years, and only to bring it up if time were to prove the Constitution to be really in need of revision. In fact, they put no conditions at all in connection with their joining the Government, and only demanded that the Independent Democrats be excluded from every coalition. And in this demand lies the only difficulty in the way of the Raditch deputies' entry in the Government.

The Independent Democrats.

The Independent Democrats are extremely convenient allies in as much as they reliably and invariably fulfil all the wishes of the Radicals. And together with them the

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Radicals have a majority. So why exchange a certain majority for one less certain? It is upon this consideration that the Independent Democrats are founding their tactics, which one is tempted to call an intrigue—in view of the fact that their object is to bring about a rejection of the Raditch deputies' offer, and therewith a preliminary condition for the definite consolidation of the State.

To judge by appearances, the Independent Democrats stand fairly high in favour with M. Pashitch, and on this, too, their hopes are founded. All the same it is very improbable that, simply to please them, M. Pashitch will let a golden opportunity slip. On the contrary, he is probably only looking for a suitable anæsthetic so that he may perform the operation on the National Bloc, viz., the elimination of the Independent Democrats, in a manner painless to the patient. This is all the more probable, as the King is decidedly in favour of a Serbo-Croatian Agreement, and explicitly wishes to have the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government replaced by a Radical-Raditch Government, or, as one says here, the "PP" Government replaced by an "RR." Besides the Crown, the great mass of the nation is also distinctly in favour of a settlement; and even within the Radical Party advocates of an "RR" Government are increasing in number, especially in the former Austro-Hungarian regions, where the Independent Democrats have been exercising pressure even upon adherents of the Radical Party.

In this connection one may quote the opinion of the Radical deputy Yelenitch, who was conducting negotiations with the Croats in Zagreb. He was extremely well satisfied with the results achieved and in regard to the chief and only condition of the Croats, viz., that the Independent Democrats must leave the Government, he said: "M. Pribitchevitch at one time said in one of his speeches that he was prepared to retire at once from political life at the moment when he should be an obstacle to an understanding between Croats and Serbs. Now, if ever, that moment has come, and it is for M. Pribitchevitch to keep his word."

This appeal will find a strong echo in Yugoslav public opinion, and, willy-nilly, the Independent Democrats will in the end have to make friends with the Opposition. The political situation is travelling in the direction of the Serbo-Croatian agreement which is bound to come. Meanwhile, it is probable that the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Cabinet will be preceded by a provisional "PP," or even by an all-Radical Government.

But the "RR" Government is the Government of the future, and for the sake of bringing it into existence the Independent Democrats will probably be sacrificed on the Right, and the Slovene Clericals on the Left.

It is also possible that the "RR" Government will end in a Concentration Government, but that would be only after the lapse of several months.

Yugoslavia Improving.

By the latest turns of events the internal situation in Yugoslavia has been greatly strengthened, and one of the first results of this will be an improvement in the administration. And this in its turn will lead to further progress in the country's economic development.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, April 30.

The New Constitution

To all appearances Ahmed Bey Zogu is well entrenched in power. He is not allowing his opponents any chances. The Constituent Assembly has been dissolved, after putting the finishing touches to the new republican Constitution. Ahmed has been elected President for seven years, with powers, as head of an Executive independent of the Legislature, similar to those secured to the President of the United States. A small senate of 18 members has been nominated: six by the President, 12 by the "rump" of the Constituent Assembly—all of them, therefore, friends of the present regime. The term of the Senatorial appointments has not been fixed; but it is understood that, subject to a revision of the Senate's constitution at a more convenient and settled time, the Senators will also hold office for seven years. For the present any vacancies occurring will be filled by nomination by the House of Representatives and it will fall to the lot of the Senate to elect the new President on the termination of Ahmed's term of office.

Summer Elections.

Elections for the House of Representatives are to take place early this summer. The number of members has been reduced to under sixty, and in the absence of all the leaders of the real Opposition Parties, Ahmed should secure a fairly compact majority. It is not probable that anyone radically opposed to the present regime will be elected; but from Koritza to Scutari there may quite probably be elected representatives of a more or less independent character, while the new Chamber in any case is certain to crystallise into various groups—particularly that of the big beys of the Centre and South West, that of the revivified "Clique" under Eshref Frasheri, and that of the Catholic Scutarines.

The Albanian Gendarmerie.

The Army has been disbanded, and a voluntarily recruited Gendarmerie is in course of being organised. They will be all picked men, who will take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution and the President, and they will be well armed. As is known, they will also be under the command of British officers. Ahmed will be able to rely on this body, which will number 4-5,000 men, to withstand any attempt at a counter revolution. As for the defence of the country in the event of war, reliance will be placed on local tribal levies, which will be given a "cadre" organisation under their local chiefs—a system altogether in accord with Albanian sentiment and better suited to the requirements of a miniature State than a regularly recruited Army, which costs more money than it is worth.

M. Konitza's Successor.

Elias Bey Vrioni, who maintained a neutral attitude during the last revolution but refused to take office in Ahmed's Cabinet, has accepted the post of Minister to Great Britain and France jointly in the place of M. Mehmet Konitza, who has resigned. The latter had earned in London a well-deserved popularity and esteem. He was, indeed, an ideal Albanian Minister in London, for besides his diplomatic gifts and charming personality, he dearly loved England, to which he often referred as the country of his adoption. Elias Bey Vrioni is, however, sure to prove a worthy successor; for he also has charm and is a great gentleman.

Ahmed Bey and Albania.

The Cabinet has been increased by the addition of Zena Bey as Minister of the Interior. He hails from Jakova, an Albanian town in Yugoslavia, and he has the reputation of being a friend of the Serbs. His appointment lends some point to the suspicion held by the Parties opposed to the present regime that Ahmed Bey would be ready to make in certain circumstances an arrangement with M. Pashitch by which the aspirations of Serbia to Scutari and Northern Albania would be satisfied. This, of course, would mean Valona going to Italy and Koritza to Greece. On the other hand, such views fail to take into

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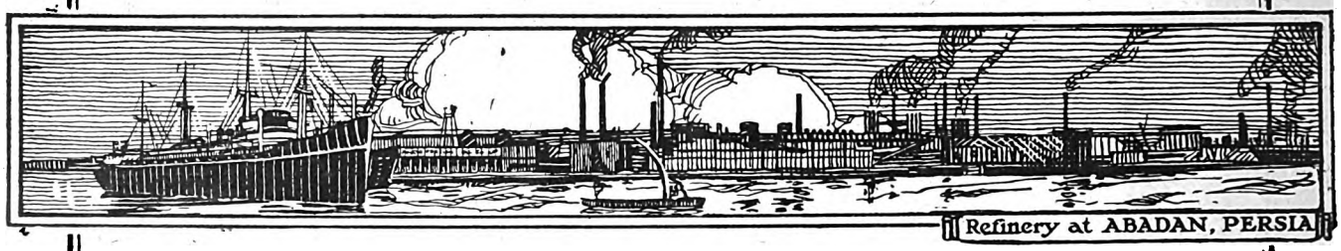

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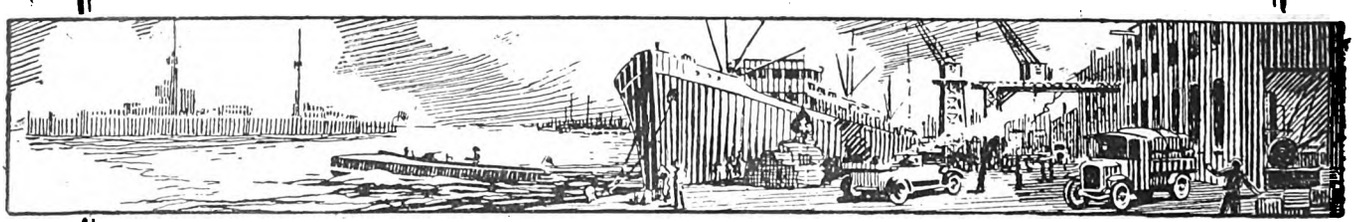

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consideration that it is the firm intention of the Italian Government to see the present frontiers of Albania preserved. The possession of Valona no longer represents an aim in Italian policy, and any attempt to upset the *status quo* would be strongly opposed, even if an attempt to break up Albania came from within, that is, even if Ahmed Zogu turned out to be another Essad Pasha, ready to favour partition in order the better to reserve for himself a Mohammedan tyranny in the Centre and South-West.

The truth is that many Christian members of the Opposition believe that nothing good can come out of the present regime, which, they assert, will prove in practice an intolerable class ascendancy of the Moslems over the Christians—a repetition, in other words, of the conditions when Turkey ruled. This, they fear, may in turn produce a secession movement in the north and south, looking, respectively, to Yugoslavia and to Greece for liberation from a situation in which the claims of religion must take precedence over the claims of nationality. Thus, willy nilly, Ahmed would be to blame for the ruin of his country. Traitor or no, the result would be the same.

These prognostications are based, however, on assumptions that are hypothetical rather than real. Time alone will show whether they have any substance. Ahmed must be fully aware that he cannot hope to maintain himself in power for long unless he can succeed in gaining Christian good will; so that if one rules out the accusation of intended treachery, one may be certain that he will make a bid to win over the Christians to his side all in good time. Meanwhile, for the good of Christianity, it would be well if Albanian ecclesiastics refrained as much as possible from taking part in politics. It cannot be denied that it is owing to politics and not to religion that the present Archbishop of Scutari and the Provincial of the Franciscans have been forbidden by Ahmed to re-enter Albania for the present. And if the liberty of Christians is at all being hampered in Albania now, it is for the same reason. In any case there is no altogether convincing evidence that Ahmed has any desire to pursue an anti-Christian policy. If he does it will be because he is a prisoner of circumstances.

Sofia, April 28.

The Internal Situation.

To-day, a fortnight after the attempt on King Boris' life, the internal situation is quiet. It will be generally known that on the same day as King Boris so miraculously escaped death, General Gheorghieff, a Governmental Deputy, was assassinated in Sofia. Two days later, during the General's funeral, an infernal machine exploded in the Sveti Kral Cathedral, situated in the centre of Sofia, killed some hundred and forty men, women, and children and wounded several hundreds.

A few hours after this horrible crime the Cabinet, almost all of whose members were in the Cathedral but escaped with slight wounds, decided that it was necessary to proclaim martial law. The King's assent was obtained, and the military became masters of the situation. It is still impossible to say what were the exact motives inspiring the crime, as no further acts of terrorism followed on the explosion, and with one or two trifling exceptions, no incidents were reported from the provinces. It seems, however, indubitable that the attack on King Boris, the murder of General Gheorghieff, and the Cathedral crime were all linked up. The conspirators, who mostly belong to the Communist and extreme Agrarian parties, no doubt wished to destroy the chief of the State and his Government with the idea of demoralising the authorities and promoting anarchy. So much is fairly clear. But it still remains somewhat of a mystery why directly after the explosion nothing further was attempted. It may be that the fact that the guiding spirits of the present Government escaped (General Vulkoff, War Minister, rushed out of the Cathedral and in a few minutes the Sofia garrison was mobilised), deterred Communist sympathisers from trying to carry on the work of terror. Or, it may be that the conspirators' plan miscarried at the last moment and they found themselves able to perpetrate only the three outrages. In general, opinion inclines towards the former theory.

Government Measures.

With commendable promptitude the authorities started to pursue the criminals. They were soon successful in capturing two or three men, who are believed to be amongst the ringleaders. These were the ex-Deputy Petrini, and a much wanted criminal named Marco Friedmann. It was then learned that two former Bulgarian Engineer officers, Captains Minkoff and Yankoff, were the principal organisers of the outrage. Sofia was immediately surrounded, and a close house-to-house perquisition was carried out. One by one the various conspirators were tracked down. Minkoff was found in a house in the centre of Sofia. The authorities wished to capture him alive, but during the fighting he was killed. It proved a more difficult task with Captain Yankoff, and for five or six hours during the night extensive bombing went on. Finally the house in which he had taken refuge was practically reduced to ruins, and Yankoff's body, along with that of another man, was found inside.

Meanwhile, many hundred arrests had been operated throughout the country, and the Government stated that they were in possession of almost all the chief conspirators. Nevertheless, ex-Deputy Grantcharoff and one or two others are still at large, although it is not known whether they have suceeded in escaping from Sofia or not. Fearing further outrages, the Government has taken extensive precautions to guard all important buildings, bridges, and other vital points. Feeling that the forces at its disposal were insufficient to carry out this task, it asked the Allies to authorise the temporary enlistment of ten thousand more soliders. After a short deliberation the Allies agreed, but it is understood that these ten thousand men must be dismissed by May 31.

It would be idle to dwell on the horror which the Cathedral crime aroused amongst all sections of the community. It is sufficient to say that there has never been a worse crime in the memory of living men.

Consequences of the Crimes.

After the first effect of the crime had been got over, it was realised that most stringent measures would have

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to be adopted in order to deal with the terrorists. General Vulkoff, War Minister, immediately summoned the leaders of all the legal political parties when he explained to them the situation, and asked for their support during the critical stage that Bulgaria was passing through. This support was forthcoming from the leaders of all parties represented, i.e., to say Govermental, dissident Democrats and Radicals, Liberals, Socialists, and Draguieffs Agrarians. A few days afterwards, the Sobranye, with the Socialists abstaining from voting, unanimously voted martial law, and M. Malinoff, who has hitherto criticised and opposed the Government, made a most patriotic speech which was loudly applauded.

It is still quite impossible to say what the coming months have in store for Bulgaria. There are so many factors which can influence the situation. Chief amongst these is the attitude which the Yugoslav Government adopts towards Bulgaria. No less important are the methods which the Zankoff Government, or rather the military, apply in ruling the country. It is neither the time nor the place to discuss what measure of punishment should be meted out to guilty persons, but just as it is essential that the guilty should be punished, so it is essential that the innocent should go free. Unfortunately with passions aroused as they are at present, it is extremely difficult to differentiate between guilty and innocent. It is known that the Government has been urged to adopt a moderate policy, and this is all to the good. On the other hand, one has to remember that it is dealing with desperate men, who, as events have proved, stop short at nothing in order to attain their ends.

The Attitude of the

In several previous letters reference has been made to the disorganised condition of the Agrarian Party. Since Stambolisky fell from power, the party has been split up into several factions, none of whom seems to be able to lay claim to be the real party. Two days ago ex-Agrarian Ministers in the persons of MM. Thomoff and Omarchevsky visited General Vulkoff, and solemnly declared that they and their adherents had nothing whatsoever in common with those guilty of recent outrages. At the same time they affirmed that they had nothing to do with Bulgarian *emigres* in Yugoslavia who take their orders from MM. Kosta Todoroff and Oboff. It is understood that the Agrarians wish to publish a manifesto in which their declarations will be circulated amongst peasantry and also abroad. At the time of writing it is not known what attitude the Zankoff Government propose to take towards the Agrarians, but it is believed, and in many quarters it is hoped, that some kind of amicable understanding will be reached.

Notable Cathedral Victims.

Amongst the hundred and forty victims there were no less than fourteen Reserve Generals. There were three Deputies as well as the Mayor of Sofia and the Chief of Police. Practically all the wounds were inflicted on the head and shoulders as the infernal machine had been placed in the roof of the Cathedral and its explosion caused a mass of masonry and stone to fall. In this connection the behaviour of Monseigneur Stephan, Archbishop of Sofia, who was conducting the funeral service, is worthy of mention. The Monseigneur remained perfectly cool and implored the congregation not to lose their faith in God and not to stampede. His words were listened to, and it is related that many acts of bravery were performed during the first few awful moments which followed the explosion.

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Jerusalem, April 18.

Official Visits.

After Lord Balfour's visit and its culmination in the Damascus disorders, the presence of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and Aviation is receiving but slight attention. Even the Municipality of Tel-Aviv, which can mobilize crowds of all kinds at the shortest notice, hardly went out of its way to receive these two British Cabinet Ministers, beyond entertaining them to Lunch and showing them the industrial points of interest. Their visit is very short and, for Palestine, may or may not be of great moment. Mr. Amery has spent the last two days visiting Jaffa and Haifa. Hopes are expressed that his visit may effect a decision upon the person of the new High Commissioner.

Sir Gilbert Clayton.

Sir Gilbert Clayton is on the point of leaving us. He is leaving a most remarkable record behind him—of two years' conscientious industry and not a single ill-word from Jew, Moslem or fellow Government official. His experience in the past must have made him easily accessible to Arab points of view and sympathetic to Arab ideals. But in spite of this he has won for himself the goodwill and affection of the Jews no less than that of the Arabs. There is no one in Palestine but would rejoice to see him back again.

North and South Syria.

Everyone is busy cudgelling his brains as to what precisely is the significance of the Damascus trouble in the affairs of Palestine. The Arabs naturally see in the episode a proof of Arab solidity in French North and British South Syria, and argue that the feelings which were corked down by the alleged heavy exercise of military force in the South found their natural vent in the North, and that (though this is somewhat inconsequent) the Arabs of Palestine committed an error of judgment in confining their protests within peaceful bounds. Jewish circles minimize the whole affair, and maintain (a) that it was an anti-French demonstration under the cloak of an anti-Balfour protest; (b) that there was a subtle and malign French hidden hand at work; (c) that the French were not averse from this anti-British policy display; and (d) that ninety-nine per cent. of the rioters did not know what they were rioting about and had never heard the name Balfour before. It is all very irresponsible talk, and the problem still remains—why Arab Palestine protested but was peaceful, while Arab Syria reacted so quickly and almost dangerously to a neighbour's grievance. One suspects that Lord Balfour peacefully toured the length and breadth of Palestine because its inhabitants were not, on the whole, otherwise than peacefully inclined. They refuse to condone the Balfour declaration, which is no matter for surprise. But what five or even four years ago was an open and inflamed sore, has, under the soothing influence of a few years which have gone to prove that first fears were exaggerated, hardened into a somewhat tender cicatrice. Damascus, on the other hand, is the most fanatical Moslem centre north of Mecca. Palestine's grievances, served up piping hot, found ready welcome, and nationalist Arab fanaticism burst out without the restraint which experience of the reality had taught the Arabs of Palestine.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

May 7, 1925 New Style).

April 24, 1925 (Old Style).

Shawall 13, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Iyar 13, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mrs. Wilfrid Brownlow has returned to London from India.

Lady Dorothy Mills has returned to 91, Ebury Street, from the Middle East.

Lord and Lady Lamington have arrived at 16, Thurloe Place for the season.

Prince Karamjit Singh of Kapurthala arrived last week at the Savoy Hotel, London, from Paris.

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., and Lady Maud Hoare arrived last Friday evening at 18, Cadogan Gardens from Egypt.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne and the Hon. Kathleen Browne have arrived at 21, Portland Place from Mereworth Castle, Kent.

Viscount and Viscountess Portman have arrived at Claridge's from Paris and Egypt. They will leave for Buxted Park shortly for the summer.

Sir Hall Caine sailed last Friday in the *Narkunda* for Port Said, en route for Palestine and Syria. In Jerusalem he will be the guest of the High Commissioner.

The Egyptian Minister and Mme Aziz Izzet, with their son, Abdullah Bey Izzet, returned to London last Thursday evening from Cairo. They are staying temporarily at Claridge's Hotel.

A marriage will shortly take place between Mr. J. A. Simpson, India Office, and Miss Mary W. U. Robertson, younger daughter of the Rev. G. Philip Robertson, of Marsdale Crescent, Edinburgh.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Cecil Robert Fforde, K.C., to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court at Lahore in succession to Sir Henry Scott-Smith, who retired on May 6.

The appointments of Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Gallagher, D.S.O., to be a member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Cyprus, and Mr. T. E. Moir, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras in succession to Mr. R. A. Graham, have been gazetted.

General Sir James Willcocks has given up his house in Essex, and he and Lady Willcocks are shortly leaving for Kenya Colony and India on a prolonged visit.

Sir William Ramsay has been spending a few days in London with the Rev. Dr. Frew at 64, West Cromwell Road, S.W. He is on his way to Asia Minor to resume his excavations at Antioch-in-Pisidia.

Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Public Works in Egypt, has resigned his post of Inspector General of Irrigation, and has returned to England. He is taking up the post of Engineer-Inspector in London for the Egyptian Government.

The Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary for the Colonies, who has been visiting Iraq with the Secretary for Air, returned to his residence in Eaton Square last Friday evening.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir W. S. Brancker and Mr. Alan Cobham will be entertained to luncheon by the British Empire League on May 21, at the British Empire Club in connection with their recent flight to Rangoon and back. Major-General J. E. B. Seely will preside.

Sir Alexander and Lady Muir have returned to Blair Drummond, Perthshire, from Spain and Morocco.

Prince Barbu Stirbey, brother-in-law of the Prime Minister of Roumania, arrived in London last week.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, Mme. Stancioff and Mlle. Fedora Stancioff are in residence at the Villa des Trois Sources, Varna.

Sir Neville and Lady Pearson, who have been making an extended visit to Egypt followed by a tour in East Africa, are expected to arrive home next Sunday.

Mr. Charles Bentinck was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday morning, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Addis Ababa.

Lord and Lady Charles Bentinck have left town to join the steamship *Ormonde* at Toulon for a cruise to Gallipoli, Constantinople, and Mediterranean ports. Others joining the boat include the Countess of Leicester, Lord Dormer Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Ellison, Major-General Sir Andrew Russell, and Sir James Allen.

OBITUARY.

The death took place in Persia on April 30, of Mr. Newton Worrall, I.B.M., Consul at Tabriz, youngest son of the late Joseph Worrall, of Sheffield.

The death has taken place of Sir Thyagaraya Chetti Pitti, leader of the non-Brahmins, says a Reuter message from Madras. He was President of the Madras Corporation.

The death occurred at Hove on April 27, of Sir George Casson Walker, K.C.S.I., at the age of seventy-one. He was political officer in Kabul during the Afghan War, and was prominently connected with the Civil Service in India.

Miss Easton, aged 65, an American lady missionary belonging to an independent mission, was attacked by cholera while travelling from Calcutta and was admitted to hospital on her arrival at Madras, says a Reuter's telegram. She died on April 27. Miss Easton had spent thirty-five years in India.

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1925.

THE NEW PALESTINE.

A series of events during the last few weeks has attracted fresh attention to Palestine. Lord Balfour's visit fanned the embers of Arab hostility to the British policy of offering the Jews a national home in the country, and his subsequent attempt to see Damascus provided a fresh text for those Frenchmen who make it their business to intrigue against Great Britain in the East, by enabling them to emphasize the unity of Syria and Palestine and to point to the ill-sucess of the experiment that separated the latter from Syria and put it under a British mandate. The presence in Jerusalem shortly afterwards of Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in whose charge the mandated territories are placed, enabled him to contravert many of the wild statements that pass muster as the Arab case against the Jews, and to remind the Arabs that the Government was still ready to accept their co-operation in building up the prosperity of Palestine. What little effect his words had on the Arab Executive may be gauged from the fact that this body has selected the present moment for a renewal of its protest to the League of Nations against the Jewish National Home, coupled with an appeal for the establishment in Palestine of a national and constitutional representative Government in which Arabs and Jews will be represented according to the proportion of their numbers in the population of the country. In particular the petition to the League of Nations protests against the concessions granted to Mr. Rutenberg and against the activities of the Jewish Colonisation Association. Another side of the Palestine picture has been provided by Sir Alfred Mond, who, after a visit extending over a few months, has returned greatly impressed as a business man by the practical progress made in the country and convinced that Palestine on the lines now being followed will in time become self-supporting. Finally, there has been a speech by Mr. W. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has reiterated the British Government's undertaking that it will not go back on the Balfour Declaration, although it has no intention of allowing that Declaration to be translated into action prejudicial to the Arabs.

The question at issue in Palestine is one between sentiment and practical politics. If there had been no Great War, Palestine would presumably still be under Turkish jurisdiction. If, on the other hand, neither Turkey nor Great Britain existed, and if no other nation had had occasion to intervene, it is conceivable that the Arabs of Palestine would to-day form an independent community. Unfortunately for the theoretical case that they put forward, Great Britain is in occupation of Palestine and has pledged herself to allow Jews, as a matter of right and not merely of sufferance, to settle in the country, to live their own cultural life and to have an opportunity of development. If all antecedent considerations could be ruled out of court, it would be quite true that the situation in Palestine conflicts with the principle of self-determination; but the very document that created world-sanction for that principle provided for a certain number of temporary exceptions, of which Palestine was one. For the Arabs of Palestine, therefore, the shortest cut to the goal that quite rightly they have in view is to remove the conditions that on general grounds caused provision to be made for exceptions to the principle of self-determination. In their own case, to the main consideration of constitutional inexperience is added the far more serious problem of minorities, for the League of Nations will be obliged to be much more critical of the position that minorities are likely to occupy under the scheme of self-determination than of the precise standard of constitutional development reached by the claimants. Consequently an Arab petition that claims representative government and inveighs against the Jews in the same document cancels itself in the eyes of the League, for it is a reminder of what is likely to happen to a minority of outstanding importance to the country, if the Arabs in their present mood, that is to say, in the mood reflected by the Arab Executive, were accorded a free hand.

The root of the trouble in the past in Palestine has been threefold. There was first the Declaration of the British Government, which was addressed exclusively to the Jews and referred to the Arabs only as an afterthought; then came the extravagant interpretation of this Declaration by extreme Zionists, and lastly the genuine fears of the Arabs of what the Jews would do under the British ægis. To-day there is no longer any room for doubt as to the hard and fast lines within which effect will be given by Great Britain to the Balfour Declaration. Equally important, the political aims of Zionism in the first flush of a not unnatural exuberance have gone by the board. It is the business side of Zionism that is now uppermost: a sum of more than a million-and-a-half sterling has been spent in Palestine by the Keren Hayesod, or Palestine Foundation Fund, and Jewry, especially the Jews of Great Britain, is committed to making a commercial success of that expenditure. Of the total amount, half-a-million pounds have been spent on agricultural colonisation, £317,000 on education, £400,000 on industries, public works, and public health, and £189,000 in immigration. Jewish money on deposit in the Anglo-Palestine Bank amounts to £1,700,000. Villages of three or four years ago are becoming towns; a considerable number of factories are in operation, and a scheme such as the Rutenberg concession for electric power, which seemed two or three years ago on too grandiose a scale for practical purposes, is now seen to be an urgent requirement. It is impossible that Palestine as a whole should not benefit from these activities. One material result that has occurred within the last few weeks is that the Palestine Government, owing to the extension of agriculture, has been able to reduce the tithe on land from twelve-and-a-half to ten per cent.—a measure of no small importance to the Arab population. Thus of the three bases of the Palestine trouble, two may be said to have been eliminated. It remains only for the Arabs to look facts squarely in the face, to reflect on the antecedent conditions that have led to the existing political status of the country, to distinguish between imaginary grievances and administrative improvements that can be introduced as opportunity offers, and to qualify themselves for the task of self-government under guarantees that the Jewish population shall suffer no prejudice from any modification in the terms of the Mandate.

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INDIA TO-DAY.

With Lord Reading's arrival in England, and the beginning of the confidential discussions in Whitehall, there has been a definite renewal of interest in Indian affairs; and, even in circles which care little for ordinary politics, the question "What is to be done?" is now being insistently or even anxiously asked. Our answer to that question can be given very shortly. At the moment there is no need whatever for spectacular or drastic action, but there is an imperative call for hard thinking, and for looking further ahead than either Whitehall or Delhi usually cares to do. To justify this answer, we must review the position as it exists to-day in the light of the history of the last few years, and in our own case the task is comparatively easy, because The NEAR EAST has not changed its views, and we are therefore under no necessity of explaining or apologising for anything in the past. We have maintained all along, and we still maintain, that in putting India's feet on the road leading to democracy, England did the right thing, but at the same time we have insisted that the right thing is extremely hard to do effectively, because it involves a definite breach with history. To teach people to govern themselves, when for centuries they have never even thought of doing so, is a task worthy indeed of England, and calling for the highest degree of steadfastness, insight and leadership; the need for these qualities is still, and must remain, the dominant factor in the situation. The first essential for success is the creation of a working electorate, not of course a perfect electorate, which is unlikely ever to exist, but one which will learn by its own mistakes, and, if we have supported the present Constitution, the reason is that, cumbrous and illogical though it be, it does in fact provide for the gradual evolution of effective constituencies, while furnishing safeguards against the results of serious accidents in the process. The experience already gained has brought out various defects in the working of the new machinery, and these should be remedied as soon as possible, but from our point of view the essential thing is that changes should be considered primarily from the educational standpoint. Delhi is apt to forget that constituencies exist, and its natural desire for smooth working may easily lead in the direction of a little oligarchy of town-bred politicians, responsible to no one but themselves. It is for England then to insist that oligarchy is not wanted, and that any modification in the Constitution must be designed to facilitate the production of democrats in the mass.

Now this fundamental problem of the electorate is essentially a rural problem, because the urban population of India is proportionately so small as to be negligible, over-represented in the legislatures though it is. Stripped of all its minor and accidental features, the task which England has undertaken is to lead the people of the village to take charge of their own country, and to inculcate the essentials of political life, first, how to choose representatives, and secondly, how to keep those representatives in some sort of order. But all life is one, and it would be absurd to suppose that practical politics could be added mechanically to the existing organism. The ultimate success of England's policy depends, therefore, on a progressive uplift of the whole Indian rural life. Better farming, better business, better living, better thinking, all these are needed, with political activity growing up by degrees as an integral part of the new life. It is primarily for this reason that we have consistently laid so much stress on the urgency of economic development, aiming at a steady increase in the national income. India should not be satisfied until every child that is born has a reasonable chance of leading a reasonable life, a chance of living and learning, a chance of working and thinking for the good of the country. One of the most hopeful signs at the present day is that many Indians of the younger generation are beginning to obtain glimpses of this truth, not indeed from their natural leaders, but from the pressure of hard facts, and from new opportunities for study. In this matter the future is largely in their hands, and the task of the Indian administration now consists less in breaking fresh ground than in intensifying the work of economic development already in progress, and at the same time encouraging the expression of this new spirit among the younger men, nourishing it with the facts which are its natural diet, tolerating its inevitable crudities, and giving it the chance of attaining to a fruitful maturity. In order to do this, the administrations themselves must change their outlook, and make a vigorous effort to shake off the departmentalism which is their besetting sin. Looking over a volume of the legislative proceedings at Delhi from this standpoint is a depressing experience. There is, indeed, a department charged with each separate branch of development, and fighting other departments more or less vigorously to secure priority for its own schemes, but one looks in vain for any sign of concerted effort to tackle the problem as a whole. If the policy laid down by Parliament is to be carried out effectively, the Government at Delhi must learn to function as a Development Commission for the whole country, while each provincial administration is acting in the same way for its own people. It is a mistake to look on mines and quarries, canals and railways, schools and hospitals, farms and factories, as so many independent branches of activity; all of them are parts of a whole, and what is wanted now is such inspiration, lead, and drive, as shall carry the entire movement forward at a steadily increasing pace. In our judgment there is now an admirable opening for a positive policy of accelerating political progress by increasing the national income, and thus raising the life of the country to a level at which fruitful political activity will come naturally into existence.

Such, in our view, is the position in regard to the fundamental problem before the Government of India, the problem of giving effect to the policy laid down by Parliament and approved by the vast majority of the English nation. Apart from it, there are many problems, of great importance, though they must, if necessary, be subordinated to the fulfilment of the primary task. They are too numerous to be discussed on the present occasion, and we must content ourselves with mentioning one of them. The relations between the Central Government and the Indian States require to be adjusted to square with the new regime, and action, following on thought, is perhaps more urgently needed here than on any of the internal problems of the country. There is obvious risk of a clash of interest, and of sentiment, between the ruling Princes, each of whom is master within his own State, and the legislature at Delhi, which inevitably tends to concern itself with India as a whole and not merely with British India. The central administration, which now deals with such questions, is bound to come more and more under the influence of the legislature, and the problem is to devise such modifications as will command the confidence of the Princes, and satisfy them that they are secure against the interference of what they regard as an alien body. The task is not an easy one, and in this respect at least the question of the States falls into line with those which affect British India only. There are indeed difficulties everywhere, and they are inevitable, not merely accidental, but their existence constitutes a call for effort, not an excuse for discouragement, and they will yield to steadfastness, insight and leadership.

CYPRUS.

The following telegrams from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol represent the point of view of the Greek organisation which is agitating for union with Greece:

Limassol, May 2.

The Commissioners (of the different Districts) have read the Letters Patent proclaiming Cyprus a British colonly, and providing for a new Legislative Council.

The population heard the Proclamation everywhere with eloquent silence.

Limassol, May 1.

As only British Nationals are allowed as candidates for the posts now thrown open to Cypriots, nearly all Cypriot politicians, being Greek subjects, will be excluded. The Goverament has rejected the application of Dr. Lanitis and others for British nationality. The fact that there is thus no essential alteration in the Constitution has caused great disappointment.

Just after the reading of the Letters Patent the Greek Archbishop handed the High Commissioner in writing a strong protest on behalf of the Church and people, declaring that they will be satisfied only by union with Greece.

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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.

TRIBES OF ASIA MINOR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Apropos of the interesting article in your issue of April 23, entitled "Wild Tribes of Asia Minor," may I be allowed to join issue with your contributor on one or two points?

It is suggested that the Kurds or ancient Karduchii are racially a blend of Turk and Tatar. Surely, Sir, it is universally considered that they are Aryans and bear no kinship to either Turanian stock. The late Major E. B. Soane in his introductory notice to his Kurdish Grammar, states:—"This Kurmanji (Kurdish) Language is spoken by the Aryan population of a very large area" and he was a man who made Kurdish and the Kurds a life study.

The same remark applies to suggestions as to any Arab admixture in their blood.

As to the statement that their language is more Arabic than Turkish, this also is misleading. The basal Kurdish tongue is a pure Aryan language allied to Persian, and containing fewer Arabic elements than either Persian or Turkish. The above mentioned work also demonstrates this.

The Kurds are by no means always a swarthy race; the writer has seen specimens who would make splendid Norwegians, and many of their girls possess pink and white complexions that would turn an Englishwoman green with envy.

The Bedouin of the neighbouring deserts do not wear the *haik* as a headdress, but the '*aqal* and *kaffiyah*' composed of a cotton or silk kerchief kept in place by a double rope-like headband, generally black. The Kurd wears a turban wrapped round a small cap, although he occasionally wears also a flowing kerchief underneath it.

A search through Salmone's and Wortabet and Porter's Lexicon, has failed to discover the true signification of the word *haik*; my impression is that it is the voluminous mantle worn by women in North Africa. Anyhow, if the Bedouin wear it as a headdress, how can the Laz discard it "for a more serviceable short jacket and seaboots"? Are these a form of headdress also?—I am, etc.,

F. W. CHARDIN.

Peaslake, Guildford, April 24.

THE SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your issue of April 30, you publish two letters animadverting on the Memorandum of the "Near and Middle East Association" on the subject of the Albanian frontier, to which you had previously given publicity in your review. As one of the members of the Association, who gave their assent to that Memorandum, you will perhaps permit me to offer a few remarks on those letters.

I am sorry that I am not acquainted with the claims of either of the signatories to write with authority on this subject, but the sources of their common information appear to me sufficiently obvious.

Thanks, say both writers, to the better understanding between the Triune State and the Government at present established at Tirana (whose return to power, it must be remembered, was the result of an armed incursion organized on Yugoslav territory under the eyes, and therefore presumably with at least the connivance, of the Serb authorities) "no complications exist at present," or, as Mr. Gleeson puts it, political incidents on the Serbo-Albanian frontier have ceased "for some time." In the light of past experience I think one may very fairly ask: "For how long?"

The horse, opines the same writer, being already gone, it is superfluous to bolt the stable door! The implied admission is significant, but, even though several horses may indeed be gone beyond hope of recovery, some few are left, which it is of importance to the owner to conserve, since the loss of a very few more might render the originally understocked and since sadly depleted stable no longer worth maintaining or capable of maintaining itself.

There is no question, in the mind of the "Near and Middle East Association," of interfering with the internal affairs of Albania, still less of impugning the "status quo at Belgrade" and the argument about "interference with sovereign rights"—so painfully reminiscent of Lausanne!—appears to me to carry no weight. The frontiers of Albania were, however inadequately, fixed by the Great Powers. They suffered infringement more than once, both during and after the operation of the International Frontier Commissions, but surely those that fixed them are not only entitled but in duty bound to see that they remain as fixed or at least that they are not further modified without due cause in the interests of the population concerned.

Finally, whilst both writers assert that minorities in Yugoslavia enjoy all the same rights and privileges as the Serbs, I venture to believe than anyone who has been in Macedonia will join me in traversing this assertion. If it were correct, whence the necessity of special legislation for the "Occupied Territories," involving far more than is understood in England by "suspending the Habeas Corpus Act," and why have more than 200,000 Macedonians fled as exiles to Bulgaria? It surely cannot be from love of "purely bandit activities" like the Albanian *Kachacci*, whoever they may be.—I am, etc.,

HARRY H. LAMB.

52, Morpeth Mansions, S.W. 1., May 2.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting was held on April 22, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Lt.-Col. P. D. Stewart, D.S.O., being in the chair. There were also present Mr. T C. Armitage, Lt.-Col. T. R. Badger, Messrs. H. V. Musgrave Clark, Edward Hurtley, C. W. Laird, Major R. Lomer, Major G. B. Ollivant, and the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore.

Letters of regret for not being able to be present were received from Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, C. W. Hough, Col. V. Keighley, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance, Major Sydney A. Medcalf, T.D., and Mr. R. S. Summerhays.

The following new members were elected:—Allport, Mrs. E. Bertram, Swanage, Dorset; Clarke, E. Dillon, Ibornden Park Polo Stud, Biddenden, Kent; Butler, Mrs. Gilbert V., Swanage, Dorset; Loch, Lt.-Col. Edward D., Parks, Crediton, Devon; Allport, E. Bertram, Swanage, Dorset; Grace, A. F., Annerley, Sydney, New South Wales, Butler, Gilbert V., Swanage, Dorset; and Shaw, Col. F. S. Kennedy, Teffont Magna, Salisbury.

BOOKS FOR PERSIA.

It is proposed by the Foreign Office to present to the Persian National Assembly books of a legal and political nature to the value of £50. In the customary minute informing Parliament of the proposal, the Treasury state that a library is in process of being instituted by the Mejliss in order to meet the needs of deputies, and that as a token of friendship between the two countries, and in view of the spiritual union which exists between Parliaments, it is desired to make a presentation of books as a gift from the British Parliament and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Naji el Assil, representative of the King of the Hedjaz in London, has decided to return to Jeddah in order to use his influence with King Ali and Ibn Saud, Sultan of Nejd, in the hope of restoring good relations between them.

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ZIONISM IN PALESTINE.

On April 29, at the Hotel Cecil, the English Zionist Federation gave a dinner in honour of Sir Alfred Mond, lately returned from an inspection of Jewish activities in Palestine. There were about 300 guests, and the chair was occupied by Mr. James de Rothschild.

In proposing the toast of the evening, Mr. Rothschild referred to the eminent services that Sir Alfred Mond had rendered to the cause of Zionism. He believed that Sir Alfred was alone in being at once a Member of Parliament, a Jew, and a Zionist. To the Jewish people in Palestine itself the name of Mond represented a ray of beneficent and radiant light.

Sir Alfred Mond, in responding, drew a rosy picture of the present situation in the Holy Land. He contrasted his recent visit with the one that he had made in 1921, and the difference, he said, was astonishing. Now, he was certain that the future of Israel was assured; words were impossible to describe the progress that had been made. The country was being rebuilt hour by hour. This great change was due to the fact that what was happening in Palestine was not an emigration but a transmigration; men were going thither taking with them their capital and workmen and carrying on just the same industries that they had hitherto pursued. Capital and industry were entering Palestine every day. In the Anglo-Palestinian Bank already £1,700,000 of Jewish money had been deposited, and, if he knew anything of the characteristics of his race, it would not remain long on deposit. Factories and houses were being erected with amazing rapidity. If you started driving round Tel-Aviv, by the time you returned to the spot whence you set out, you would (it was said) find another house built! Palestine, in short, was now a paying proposition. The political situation, moreover, had been vastly exaggerated; Arabs could live, and were living, in perfect harmony with Jews. As for the assertion that the Jewish colonies had to be subsidised, what colonies were not? These colonies, further, were already paying back what they had borrowed. It was, too, an untruth to say that Jews were not agriculturalists: theirs was not an artificial but a spontaneous growth. In referring to the Rutenberg scheme, Sir Alfred said that he had never seen a better equipped electric power station in any country. The port of Haifa had obviously an immense future. He concluded his enthusiastic exposition by making two criticisms: first, there was too much overlapping in Palestine, and more concentration was needed; and secondly, this country was making an unsatisfactory contribution to the development of Palestine. More capital was necessary, and he begged the Jews here to make a bigger sacrifice in the most glorious of enterprises.

Replying to Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid's toast of "H. M. Government," Mr. Ormsby-Gore said that Zionists might rest assured that the present Government, like three preceding Governments, would wholeheartedly fulfil its pledges to the Jewish people. The Government were abundantly satisfied with the effort to "make good" in Palestine. They were aware that the attempt to realise Zionist ideals was of immense importance not only to Jewry itself, but to Great Britain's world position. He was peculiarly pleased to chronicle this Governmental satisfaction, and not only because he had personally been a Zionist even before the Balfour Declaration. He was glad to be present at a dinner in honour of Sir Alfred Mond, because Sir Alfred represented exactly what H. M. Government would like a Zionist to represent—a sane, sensible man. Two events had recently occurred in the Holy Land which were of great importance, for they showed the cultural and the economic sides of the Zionist experiment. The first was, of course, the opening of the Hebrew University by the President of the Council in the Government, and the second was the reduction by the Palestinian Administration of the tithe from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent. He was happy to observe that the political note had not been touched by previous speakers, for it was often wrongly over-emphasised. In concluding, Mr. Ormsby-Gore reminded his audience that the Cabinet had now three members, Earl Balfour, Sir Samuel Hoare, and Mr. Amery, who had first-hand knowledge of that beautiful land, Palestine, and he was convinced that the future would show in the Holy Land, Jew, Arab, and the British Colonial administration working hand in hand.

After the toast of "The New Palestine" had been proposed by Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. Philip Guedalla responded in a witty speech in which he pleaded with British Jews more whole-heartedly to support Zionist activities in Palestine. By this chance Zionists would be judged; if they failed to make good in Palestine, they would not get another. He suggested that the savings accruing from the reduction in the income-tax might be given to the fund of the Keren Hayesod; in other words, that what had last year been given to Mr. Philip Snowden might this year be entrusted to Mrs. Philip Snowden.

The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz, Sir Arthur Schuster replying.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BRITAIN.

The annual dinner of the Czech Society of Great Britain took the form, this year, of a dinner in honour of the Czechoslovak Minister and Madame Mastny, who are shortly leaving London, where Dr. Mastny has just completed five years of service. Sir Charles Wakefield presided over a representative gathering which included the Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco, and Dr. Todorovitch, Yugoslav Charge d'Affaires, Sir Michael Sadler, Sir Willoughby Dickinson, Lady and Miss Wakefield, Lady Petrie, Lady Glover, Mr. H. Wickham Steed, Colonel G. R. Crosfield, Colonel and Mrs L. Bayley, Dr. Harold Williams, Mr. Bruce Lockhart, the Rev. Hunter Boyd, Dr. Dickinson Berry, Dr. H. H. L. Bellot, Mr. and Mrs. Montague Bell and Mrs. Beauchamp Tufnell.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Society, Sir Charles Wakefield paid a tribute to the constant and generous support that they had accorded to the Czech Society. Sir Michael Sadler proposed the toast of Czechoslovakia in an eloquent speech. He described the romantic beauty of the land, spoke of the links between Huss and Wycliff, and emphasised the stress laid in Czechoslovakia on education. He hoped that the industry, culture and fraternal spirit which were characteristic of the Czechoslovak people would assert a great and beneficent influence upon Europe.

Dr. Mastny, replying to the toast, pointed out that, although official relationship between Great Britain and the young republic of Czechoslovakia had been established for only five years, the Czech nation had for centuries cherished a grateful memory of the British nation. To the esteem in which the British were held events of recent time had added an equally profound gratitude for the freedom and independence to which Great Britain and her Great Allies had given their sanction. Certain perplexities still hedged about Continental ideas about Britain, which was to some extent "the unknown island." Everyone on the Continent knew that the paragon of manly qualities expressed by the word "gentleman" was a typical English phenomenon; but there was another quality usually associated with the English character, generally referred to as "English stiffness." For his own part he had entirely failed to find that trait, and he would be inclined to sub-

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stitute for what was generally called "English stiffness" the term "British sincerity." That wonderful, reserved, British sincerity was not very communicative, did not talk much, but it paid in the solid gold of truth and conviction. It embodied probity in life, probity in politics, and probity in diplomacy. He had formed an extremely high opinion of British sincerity, and in no single instance had it failed him, for not once had he met an Englishman who did not inspire him with lasting esteem.

In proposing the toast of the Czech Society, Mr. Bruce Lockhart set out to correct many false impressions which had gained currency regarding Central Europe and spoke of the steady progress being made in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Wickham Steed, replying on behalf of the Society, was of the opinion that its members could still do much more to interpret Czechoslovakia to Great Britain, and hoped that the Society would imitate the traditions of Czechoslovakia, which was the tradition of the power of industrial enlightenment and of national education.

THE CHURCH OF SVETA NEDELIA IN SOFIA.

It is unfortunate that part of the English Press has produced illustrations of the gorgeous new Cathedral of St. Alexandra Nevski as the scene of the recent appalling massacre at Sofia in Holy Week. This terrible event did not, of course, take place there but in the big church dedicated to St. Nédélia but popularly known as Svéti Kral or "Saint King." This church is situated in the centre of the busiest part of the town and has hitherto served as the cathedral of the metropolis.

While not a very beautiful architectural achievement, it had, especially as regards the interior, a dignity and even a beauty of its own, and it is to be desired that it will soon have the extensive damage done to it repaired. Historically it has a very special interest, for it was built 66 years ago, while the Turks were in undisputed possession of the country and when the erection of Christian places of worship was restricted in every way. Nothing more than a small low building, half underground, without domes or even belfry was allowed. Many of these little churches where the Bulgarians worshipped furtively but fervently are still in existence.

Fortunately for the Bulgarian Christians, the application for the firman to build this church was dealt with by the Sublime Porte at a time when it was very desirable to avoid offence at Constantinople to Russia. The Russian Ambassador interested himself in the project and it did not escape the notice of the Turkish authorities that the plans had been drawn in Russia. Indeed much of the money for its construction was probably Russian, though the Turks considered it well to believe the tale told to them of a loan at interest from Sofiote traders. Thus the firman was permitted to issue and the church was duly built, though not on quite as big a scale as it showed 30 years later.

The official name of the church is accounted for by its having been built partly on the site of a previous little church dedicated to St. Nedelia. But no Sofiote calls it by this name. Universally it is known as "Sveti Kral." The "Saint King" is said to be Stephan Miliutin, usually known as Urosh II, the celebrated King of Servia who died in 1321 after a long and glorious reign during which he won much honour in the field against Bulgaria among other enemies, and won the affectionate admiration of the Church. Why he should have been believed to have been buried in Sofia and how he came to be beatified by the local inhabitants, I know not. Anyhow, when St. Nedelia's Church was completed, another of the little churches of the town transferred thither its greatest treasure, in the shape of the coffin said to contain the bones of this great alien King canonised by his secular enemies, so that they might rest in the Cathedral church in the most splendid surroundings then available. It is a curious story. One would like to think of it as an omen for a final burial of the hatchet which has been busy so long between the two branches of the Southern Slav stem.

C. S.-W.

The war cemeteries at Gaza and Deir-el-Belah were consecrated on April 28 by the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Sir Herbert Samuel were among those present.

FOREIGN OFFICE CHANGES.

The death occurred last week of Sir Eyre Crowe, who since 1912 had been Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and since 1920 Permanent Under-Secretary. Practically his whole career was spent at the Foreign Office, although he once went to Constantinople as a Queen's Messenger and occasionally visited other parts of Europe.

He has been succeeded by Sir William Tyrrell, who has been in service with the Foreign Office since 1888. He was appointed Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office in 1919.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Mixed Court in Cairo has adjourned the hearing of the Tribute Bonds case brought against the Egyptian Government by the Bank of England and Messrs. Rothschilds until May 11.

An American who recently returned from a tour in Anatolia has offered a sum of money for the repair of the tomb of Nasr-ed-Din Hoja, the famous Turkish wag and humorist, who flourished at the beginning of the 15th century, at Konia.

Colonel T. G. Peacocke, C.I.E., C.V.O., late Director of Remounts, India, has been appointed stallion purchaser to the Government of India in succession to Brigadier-General C. Templer, C.M.G., C.I.E., whose tenure of office has expired.

Arrangements have been completed by the Government of India to assist the expedition headed by Mr. Theodore and Mr. Kermit Roosevelt in connection with their shooting trip in the Tian Shan mountains in Eastern Turkestan. The expedition will proceed through Leh and Kashmir to Kashgar, and from there onwards. The shooting will be confined to the territory under Chinese dominion.

The Kadir Cup for pig-sticking in India has been won for the second successive time by Captain J. Scott Cockburn, M.C., of the 4th Queen's Own Hussars. He has ridden the same horse in each final, Carclew. The winner also reached the final in 1922, when his horse broke a leg. Captain Cockburn's double success is unprecedented.

According to *The Times* Smyrna correspondent, the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Lindsay, arrived in Smyrna on April 30 and was met by representatives of the Turkish Government and by the British Consul-General. During the afternoon he called on the principal Turkish officials and later attended a reception of the chief representatives of the British colony. The Ambassador visited the ruins of Ephesus last Friday and left the following day by train for Angora.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning.

The Budget.

The Budget leaves one with rather mixed feelings. It is somewhat like a picture which, viewed from one angle, is a rich mellow blend of colours, and from another appears rather tawdry. Expectations with regard to the income tax were fulfilled to the letter, and the great body of taxpayers will benefit substantially. Sixpence is not much, but with the alteration in the amount of taxable income it makes a very welcome contribution to the aid of the hard-hit citizen. The restoration of the McKenna duties is also an admirable step which will give a much-needed assistance to the motor trade and other industries, while it is eminently satisfactory that effect is at last to be given to the recommendations of the Imperial Conference. The encouragement it gives to inter-Imperial trade is, in fact, the keynote of the Budget, and it is for the proposals under this head that Mr. Churchill's first Budget will be memorable. Unfortunately there is another side to the Chancellor's finance. The insurance scheme which plays such a predominant part in the Budget (and for which, be it added, no provision is made as regards the current financial year) is beyond criticism as a necessary measure of social reform, but I question very strongly the advisability of introducing it at this juncture and thus adding to the enormous expenditure that has to be met each year, to say nothing of imposing a further burden on harassed industry. It is not surprising that there should be a good deal of criticism of this proposal. It is when one looks at the figures for reserve and expenditure that one feels most strongly that the Budget is unsatisfactory. Mr. Churchill stated that there ought to be an annual reduction of at least £10,000,000 in the recurring expenditure, and a Committee is to be set up to consider ways and means of economising. But this is the seventh year after the war, and it cannot be contended that as yet any substantial progress has been made in curtailing expenditure, and until that is the case it may well be asked where is the money to come from for the State's share of the insurance scheme and for other measures of social reform that are in the offing.

A British Engineering Triumph.

Last week the interesting news was forthcoming that the masonry work for the Blue Nile Dam, which Messrs. S. Pearson and Son, Ltd., are constructing, has been completed two months before time. It will be remembered that a year ago it was a race against time to finish the work necessary before the river rose, and the conclusion of the work so far ahead of the schedule is a fitting conclusion to a great enterprise which reflects the utmost credit on British engineering. The object of the Dam, as my readers are aware, is the formation of a reservoir for the irrigation of the Gezira, and the water will be available for the 1925-6 cotton crop, so that from next year onwards an increasing contribution will be forthcoming from that area towards the output of cotton from the Sudan, to which Lancashire is largely looking for supplies which will ultimately make her almost independent of sources outside the Empire.

Dried Fruit.

I see that Dr. Haden Guest, M.P., has been making some severe criticisms in the *Daily Mail* with regard to the conditions in which fruit is prepared for the market in the Near East. The figs and sultanas of Smyrna, he says, "are sorted, handled, packed, and trampled under conditions of hardly describable dirt, and while the conditions of handling and packing currants in Greece appear to be better, this is purely a matter of comparison," and he urges the need for "immediate and urgent action" to protect British consumers. Doubtless the conditions do leave a good deal to be desired, but I may perhaps be allowed to point out that this country has been importing dried fruit from the Near East not for a few decades but for a few centuries, and the fact that, as the Tubes bear witness every morning and night, there are still a few people left in this country who are to outward appearances fit and sound, suggests that the risk of consuming the fruit cannot be so serious after all. The figs and sultanas and currants are used for Christmas puddings and cakes and for such purposes, and I venture to suggest that the treatment they receive in cooking, to say nothing of the preliminary cleaning they receive, effectually negatives any deleterious matter that the fruit may harbour. But it is impossible to exact too high a standard of cleanliness where the production of food for human consumption is concerned, and if Dr. Haden Guest will direct his campaign to Smyrna, Patras, and similar centres he may do much good. But his remarks would seem to be wasted on an audience composed of individuals who must have survived all the perils and dangers of consuming dried fruit from the Near East since childhood.

An International Currency.

At the recent annual general meeting of the Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters the interesting suggestion was put forward by the chairman, Mr. Robert Graham, that an international currency should be established as a means of overcoming the various obstacles to trade in Europe. He said he would be more hopeful of a speedy recovery of trade in Europe if he saw some signs of recognition of the fact that the post-war economic position had entirely changed from that of 1914. In Europe to-day, he added, there were too many frontiers and too many different kinds of money, and one of the first and most fruitful steps to be taken might be the establishment of an international currency for use in inter-trading between the various units, leaving each unit free to deal with its own internal currency within its own borders. In his opinion an international currency backed by every trading country in Europe would do much to restore confidence. It is unfortunately only too true in the trade sense that there are too many frontiers in Europe and too many kinds of money. In the Balkans the frontier difficulty has always been pronounced, and it was accentuated in the years immediately following the Armistice, and though the position is considerably better now, it still leaves a great deal to be desired. Indeed, it is impossible as yet for trade to flow freely between the different

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countries, for most of them have constantly changing lists of prohibited or restricted imports and exports and duties and taxes which tend to penalise trade. The currency problem is equally serious. No one knows at what point the currencies will be stabilised; the only certainty is that a position approximating to stabilisation has not yet been reached, though marked fluctuations are no longer so frequent as they were. Whether an international currency for trade purposes is a feasible proposition is a moot point. If it is practicable it would obviously go far to solving the chief post-war problem of the revival of trade.

Steaua Romana (British).

In the course of a very interesting speech at the meeting of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, Sir Charles Greenway dealt with the new mining laws in Roumania. They have been the subject, he said, of a good deal of discussion and criticism, but he was glad to be able to state that they were not directed against lands already acquired. "One great advantage of them," he added, "is that they permit of the valuable oil lands known as the 'State Lands,' belonging to the Roumanian State, being put into exploitation by companies who comply with one of the requirements of the new law by the process known as nationalising themselves." The Steaua Romana Company has received an allotment of 123 hectares of the best of the proved State lands. Seventy-eight hectares of these lands are situated at Moreni, which is the richest known oilfield in Roumania; 25 hectares at Runcu, in continuation of the fields already owned by the Steaua Romana in that district; and 20 hectares at Ochiuri, a field in which results already obtained by other companies lead the company to expect very valuable production. Sir Charles stated that it is the intention of the company to institute immediately an intensive drilling campaign on these new lands, and that, judging from the large production which is now being obtained on neighbouring lands, there is every reason to anticipate that within a period of two or three years the Steaua Romana will be obtaining a largely increased production from these new lands. The prospects of the company's older properties, he said, are also still satisfactory. The production from these lands from July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924, was 237,546 tons (exclusive of about 6,000 tons received in payment of royalties in respect of drilling contracts), as compared with 230,843 tons during the previous 12 months. Since then there has been a further satisfactory increase in production, and the figures for the six months ended December 31, 1924, were 150,151 tons, exclusive of royalties, as against 112,259 tons, also exclusive of royalties, for the corresponding period of 1923. There was thus an increase for the six months of about 40,000 tons.

The Rubber Position.

The rubber position continues to grow more interesting. In accordance with expectations the exportable quota from the restricted area has been increased by 10 per cent. as from May 1, bringing up the quota to 65 per cent. The additional amount released, however, will do little to ease the situation, and the next three months will doubtless show a further marked diminution of stocks. At the moment the London stocks are down to just under 12,000 tons, and if deliveries are maintained at their present rate (and there is no reason why they should not be, for it is obvious that manufacturers have been restricting their purchases as much as possible), the stocks at the end of the current three months should be between 5 and 8,000 tons. In the circumstances a further and steady rise in the price of the commodity would seem to be inevitable. As the position stands, indeed, the price should be higher now than 1s. 10d., and its vacillation between that figure and 1s. 8d. has been due, in my opinion, solely to the fact that only essential purchases have been made. With two more increases of the exportable quota by 10 per cent. equilibrium will be practically restored provided the demand remains on the present basis; but it has to be remembered

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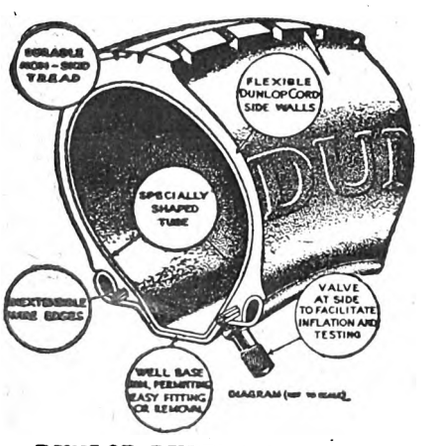

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that the consumption of rubber for tyres and other purposes is constantly on the increase, so that it may well be that the extra releases under the scheme will be readily absorbed. It must be emphasised that even if the additional export should prove inadequate to meet the demand, there is no danger of a real shortage, for once the price of rubber rises to a certain point the plantation companies will take advantage of the provision which allows them to export as much rubber as they like provided they pay a duty of 4d. per lb. on their total production. That is an adequate safeguard.

The New Wembley.

In outward semblance the new Wembley, on which the curtain rises this week, looks much the same as the old, at any rate from the railway. It still presents a vista of seemingly unending switchbacks in front of the bizarre-coloured Amusements Park, with a series of grey buildings at intervals in the background, while far off, as stately and grim as ever, towers the Stadium. But it is very far from being the same. It is still the Exhibition of the Empire, and every effort has been made to make this aspect of it as fresh as possible, but the lighter side of Wembley has been strengthened, and if it is this time more of a show and less of an exhibition it will simply be because it is unwise to stress the same aspect unduly. It is perhaps a trifle unusual to look to the end of the third act before the curtain rises, but the one thing I should much like to know is the future of the gigantic buildings at Wembley after next October. Can it be possible that they will be used to house a permanent display of the products of the different parts of the Empire? It would be difficult to find a better use for Wembley.

COMMENTATOR.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Need for Government Assistance.

At a meeting of the Committee on Industry and Trade held at the Board of Trade on April 29, with Sir Arthur Balfour in the Chair, evidence was given on behalf of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation by Sir James Currie, Director of the Corporation, and on behalf of the British Cotton Growing Association by Mr. W. H. Himbury, General Manager of the Association.

After referring to the causes which had produced a shortage of raw cotton, and especially that of the American type, Sir James Currie dealt with the possibilities of extending the crop in the British Empire. He indicated that the principal obstacles so far encountered have been (a) lack of transport facilities, (b) political and administrative difficulties. By arrangement with Mr. Himbury the former problem would be dealt with by him.

As regards the political and administrative difficulties, Sir James Currie mentioned political unrest, and stated that in several countries the steady development of cotton production was being hampered in different ways by political conditions.

An administrative difficulty felt in all countries of the Empire was deficiency of adequate technical staff in the Agricultural Departments. The Corporation had recognised this fact from the time that they commenced work, and for the past four years had awarded a number of scholarships to enable suitable candidates for the agricultural services to be adequately trained. The Colonial Office also had appointed a strong Committee, with Lord Milner as Chairman, to investigate the training, pay, prospects, status and qualifications of the agricultural services in the Crown Colonies. Sir James Currie stated that this Committee would probably recommend that all cadets for these services should be sent for a year's post-graduate training to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad; and he recommended that the College should be placed on a sound financial basis. The provisions of that institution with adequate funds for its important work would benefit the production not only of cotton but of many other staple tropical products.

Sir James Currie mentioned that in order to assist the Agricultural Departments of cotton-growing countries, the Corporation had made grants to various universities and scientific institutions in this country, in return for which problems referred to the Corporation from the tropics can be investigated there by the best men available.

As regards the finance of the Crown Colonies, he expressed the view that the present form of financial control in undeveloped territories retarded progress, and he compared the rate of development in many of the Crown Colonies working under this system with that of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in its early days.

In conclusion, he stated that as regards land tenure in Africa, many problems remained to be settled, and the authorities were at present far from having reached a general consensus of opinion on this important subject. The formulation of a definite progressive policy on this question was, in his opinion, a necessary antecedent to the full economic development of some of our possessions in Africa.

Mr. Himbury pointed out that the Lancashire cotton trade produced about one-fifth for the Home trade and four-fifths for export, but depended almost entirely upon foreign countries for its supplies of raw material. The principal source of supply of course was America, and for the world's requirements 14 million bales of American cotton were necessary. Previous to 1921 America had produced in excess of 14 million bales, but for 1923-24 American production was not quite 11 million, of which America herself required between 6½ and 7 million bales for her own consumption. The problem, therefore, had now become acute, and the only remedy for Lancashire lay in the rapid development of cotton growing in the tropical and sub-tropical countries of the Empire.

Mr. Himbury then gave a summary of developments and prospects in Uganda, the Sudan, Tanganyika Territory, Nyassaland, Rhodesia, West Africa, India, Australia, South Africa, West Indies, Iraq, and other lesser producing countries of the Empire.

The Sudan, he said, this year enters a phase, the end of which should see it as one of the chief cotton-producing countries, for in July the Barrage at Makwar on the Blue Nile will be completed and will be supplying water for the Gezira Canalization Scheme, which will bring into immediate cultivation 100,000 acres annually of high-class Egyptian cotton. Developments were taking place in the cultivation of rain-grown cotton in a number of large areas where irrigation was not practicable. The exports of cotton for 1924 amounted to about 46,000 bales.

In India the cultivation of Punjab American cotton was being proceeded with. This was an acclimatized Upland American cotton, and was grown in the canal colonies of the Punjab to the extent of some 500,000 acres. The Indian Central Cotton Committee had set to work, and was giving serious consideration to the important question of improving the Indian cottons.

As regards Iraq, he said that the crop for the present season was 3,000 bales, as compared with 1,500 bales for the previous season, and the British Cotton-Growing Association had established a power ginnery at Bagdad. The potentialities for cotton cultivation in Iraq depended largely on a sound irrigation and drainage system, and large projects were under consideration to erect barrages and reservoirs.

In conclusion, Mr. Himbury expressed the opinion that experience had shown that the Empire was capable of producing very large quantities of excellent cotton which would assure Lancashire as to the sufficiency of its raw material. The further extension of cotton growing within the Empire was, however, dependent on improved transport facilities.

The building and financing of most of the railways in our Colonies and tropical Dependencies in Africa had been financed by loans issued by the Colonies themselves, or under the guarantee by the Imperial Government, and in some cases the machinery of the Trades Facilities Act had been used. As the interest and sinking fund, however, had to be found by the Colony, progress in transport development was necessarily slow. Mr. Himbury explained that this was not the fault of the Colonies, who had to the best of their ability done everything they possibly could to provide railways, etc., but if quicker progress had to be made, he suggested that some other assistance would have to be given by the Imperial Government.

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Near East Markets.

DRIED FRUIT MARKETS.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated May 1, state:—

Currants.—The resumption of trading after the Easter holidays was attended with disappointment, for it had been hoped that the continued improvement in the Greek exchange would have been responsible for an accumulation of buying orders sufficient to create a healthier state of affairs than that previously existing. Moreover, the reported passing of the measure permitting the purchase by the Government of an additional quantity of currants was a factor calculated to assist materially in the stabilising of values.

No sensational rise has been witnessed, but the market has taken a decided turn for the better, some recovery from the lowest points being brought about. Trading has concentrated chiefly on best parcels, Shade Dried Vostizza 54s. to 56s., also on ordinary to good 47s. to 50s.; Gulf and Panariti 41s. to 46s.; Zante difficult of sale, with some Smalls selling 40s. to 42s. Cleaned fruit in request 38s. to 40s., with best grades up to 46s. Transactions in old fruit are reported at 32s., old Vostizza 38s. Quotations:—Pyrgos 35s. to 36s., Amalias and Patras 37s. to 40s., Gulf and Panariti 40s. to 46s., Vostizza 46s. to 50s., Vostizza Shade Dried 50s. to 56s. The Sea Victory, with 260 tons, was the only arrival, about 120 tons being available for the market.

Sultanas.—A welcome improvement in the demand, with interest gradually expanding, has been noticeable, the finest qualities being most enquired for with fair business passing at 70s. to 77s. 6d., good qualities at 60s. to 62s., a little movement also passing in the lower grades at 48s. 6d. to 50s. On the whole, however, this latter class is slow. A small arrival of 1,500 boxes, good average quality, per Etrib, were disposed of afloat at 45s. 6d. quay terms.

Greeks. Coloury fruit have been enquired for, sales being reported at 58s. to 64s.

Capes.—The small weekly shipments were disposed of on arrival at unchanged rates, Sundried 47s., Sulphured 67s.

Figs.—The small stock remaining meets with a slow sale at 28s. to 33s. A shipment of inferior quality from U.S.A. realised 20s.

Latest official advices received from Australia report that dried fruit crops in the Commonwealth are expected to be about half of the quantity produced last season. It is greatly to be hoped that the quality may be superior, and so, to some extent, compensate for the diminished output. The Budget was awaited with keen interest, in the expectation that it would provide for some Colonial preference, and these anticipations proved correct. The news will naturally be received with satisfaction by Colonial growers, who will benefit substantially by this legislation.

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BULGARIA'S TRADE IN 1924.

The Bulgarska Banka, in its report dated April 1, states:—

During the year 1924 Bulgaria's imports were 387,248 tons, of the value of 5,557,311,000 leva, and exports amounted to 390,428 tons, of the value of 4,902,226,000 leva, there being an excess of imports over exports of about 650 million leva.

Textile goods held the first place in the import list, their value being 2,094,781,238 leva; metals came next with 931,527,554 leva; and machines, instruments, and apparatus third with 468,918,815 leva.

In exports the first place was again held by tobacco with 1,828,109,358 leva, followed by maize with 1,001,932,559 leva while eggs took the third place with 572,892,376 leva.

The Autumn Sowings.

The autumn sowings in 1924 (in thousand hectares) were as follows:—Wheat, 965; rye, 156; barley, 159; various, 101; total, 1,381.

These sowings were better than those of the two preceding years. The winter wheat sowings especially were much greater in 1924, exceding by 20 per cent. those of 1923. The greatest sowings of where in 1924 were in the region of Bourgas, viz., 120,000 hectares; Choumen-Plovdiv, 42,000 hectares. Barley was specially sown in the region of Bourgas—over an area of 23,000 hectares.

According to the latest information, the sowings throughout the country are in excellent condition. The rains which fell recently throughout the whole of the Bulgarian territory have been favourable to the sowings.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended May 2 states:—

Nothing of special interest has transpired during the past week. Possibly the tone is a little better owing to a certain number of negotiations being concluded on the strength of cheaper cotton, but the general state of affairs still leaves much to be desired.

Yarn.—Demand has again been very slow for all classes of yarns, and as regards those spun from American cotton the position is again tending to become acute. A certain amount of weak selling has made its appearance and buyers with orders to place can obtain concessions much more readily than was the case recently. There is nothing of interest to report with regard to Egyptian spinnings. Conditions remain virtually unaltered.

Cloth.—As mentioned above, a number of inquiries have become practicable to manufacturers owing to the fall in cotton prices. A moderate business has been done for India, dhooties again being the principal line in demand. Only a poor turnover has taken place in the heavier cloths. Reports from China are discouraging, but business for Egypt and the Near East has been perhaps a little more active.

Raw Cotton.—Reports from the cotton growing States of America have this week been more favourable. The drought which was troubling Texas has been relieved. It is estimated that the acreage planted will represent an increase of 4 per cent. to 6 per cent. over that of last year. Prices have consequently given way. Egyptian cotton has been in poor demand and quotations are again lower. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 12.98; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 30.85.

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IVORY PRICES IRREGULAR.

Messrs. Hale and Son report as follows on the quarterly ivory sales which were held last week:—They comprised 39¼ tons (against 51¾ tons at the same time last year), viz.: 18¼ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African and Siam, 1 ton Abyssinian, 7 tons Egyptian (5¼ tons Alexandrian, ¾ ton Malta description), 11 tons West Coast and Central African, ¼ ton Lisbon, and 2¾ tons land carriage; also ¼ ton rhinoceros horns and sea horse tusks, and 4½ tons mammoth tusks; total, 44 tons. Of the above quanties 10¼ tons consisted of lots previously offered or land carriage, viz.: 2½ tons East Indian, ½ ton Abyssinian, ¼ ton Egyptian, 1 ton West Coast African, 2¾ tons land carriage, and 3½ tons mammoth tusks.

The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 11 tons soft tusks, 1¾ tons hard ditto, and a few Siam, 1¼ tons billiard ball and bagatelle pieces, ¾ ton cut points for balls, ¾ ton cut points off large tusks, ½ ton under-size and defective points, etc., ½ ton billiard ball scrivelloes, ¼ ton bagatelle scrivelloes, ¾ ton scrivelloes, and 1¼ tons cut hollows. Only 5½ tons were withdrawn, viz.: 1½ tons East Indian, ½ ton Abyssinian and Egyptian, ½ ton Congo and West Coast Africa, 1½ tons land carriage, and 1¾ tons mammoth tusks. There was the usual attendance of buyers and a good demand. The total quantities catalogued were smaller than usual, being under 40 tons of all descriptions, but they contained a larger proportion of the hard grain. There was good competition for America, the Continent, and the Home trade.

Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East Africa, and Siam.—Soft large and medium tusks on the average were £4 to £8 per cwt. higher and hard was steady to rather dearer. Billiard ball pieces: the best lines were about steady, but inferior £5 to £10 per cwt. lower. Bagatelle points were £3 to £5 per cwt. lower. Billiard ball scrivelloes were firm to rather lower, and bagatelle scrivelloes were £3 to £5 per cwt. lower. Cut points for balls and cut points off large tusks were irregular, prime lots being steady, but inferior £3 to £6 per cwt. lower. Under-size and defective points were steady to rather lower. Soft bangle tusks: the larger sizes advanced £3 to £6 per cwt., the smaller being steady. Scrivelloes were about £2 to £3 per cwt. easier. Cut Hollows: soft, firm to £2 to £3 per cwt. higher; hard steady.

Abyssinian.—Large and medium tusks were £4 to £8 per cwt. higher. Ball scrivelloes were steady to rather lower, while scrivelloes were £2 to £3 per cwt. easier.

Egyptian consisted principally of the Alexandrian description. Soft tusks were £4 to £8 per cwt. higher. Hard were steady to rather dearer. Ball scrivelloes were steady to rather low. Scrivelloes were £2 to £3 per cwt. easier.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC IN 1924.

A White Paper has just been issued giving the return of shipping and tonnage for the Suez Canal for 1924. The number of vessels transiting the canal was 35,122 of a gross tonnage of 34,651,932 and a net tonnage of 25,109,921, and the transit receipts amounted to 186,460,813 francs.

As usual the British flag easily predominated with more than half the total transits, the figures being 2,973 of a gross tonnage of 20,638,195, and a net tonnage of 14,994,681. Holland is second with 489 transits, the gross tonnage being 3,424,977, and the net tonnage 2,488,389 Germany now holds the third place with 350 transits of a gross tonnage of 2,293,414, and a net tonnage of 1,646,872. 58.1 of the vessels transiting the canal were British, their gross tonnage representing 59.6 of the whole, and of the net tonnage 59.7.

Merchant vessels with cargo made 3,151 transits, and their net tonnage was 15,139,597. Of these 2,028 were British of a net tonnage of 10,010,812. 1,139 transits were made by mail steamers, the net tonnage being 6,479,852. In this case the respective British totals were 345 and 2,407,704. In addition 548 transits were made by merchant vessels in ballast of a net tonnage of 2,209,205, the British totals being 400 and 1,648,889.

The mean duration of passages through the canal was 14 hours 40 minutes for vessels navigating by night as well as by day, and 15 hours 23 minutes for all vessels. 26 transits were made by vessels of a draught over 30 feet, this representing 0.5 of the total. 4,884 transits or 95.4 per cent. were of vessels of a draught of 28 feet or less.

NEW ELLERMAN LINE STEAMER.

The S.s. City of Kimberley, built by Messers. Wm. Gray and Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, to the order of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., successfully ran her official trials recently. The vessels is of the following dimensions: Length overall 433 ft., breadth extreme, 56 ft. 3 in., and depth moulded to upper deck 32 ft. 8 in.

The vessel has two decks laid, with long poop and combined bridge and forecastle, and is fitted out to meet the owners' special requirements for the trade in which she is intended to run. The double-bottom is arranged for the carriage of oil fuel and fresh water. She is fitted with electric light, a wireless installation, appliances for the speedy handling of cargo, and all requirements necessary for a first-class cargo steamer.

The propelling machinery, supplied by the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders, consists of triple-expansion engines, having cylinders 24½—42½—74 in diameter by 51 in. stroke, and three large boilers.

A number of steamship auxiliaries of the well known "Cmew" type, also made by the Central Marine Engine Works, are fitted, including centrifugal pump, gravitation filter, feed water drain and scum tank, oil separator, evaporator auxiliary condenser, general service pump, harbour feed pump, ballast pump, two transfer pumps and a "Cmew" Thermocouple installation.

Amongst those present on the trial were Mr. W. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Howell Venables, of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., Captain F. H .Wyse and Mr. J. Allan, of the Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Co.

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, May 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 20).

British India Line.—S.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 9); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Bari, Gruz, Fiume, and Trieste (Swansea, May 19); s.s. Brescia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 30).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, May 15); s.s. Perim for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Johnstone Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constanza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, June 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, May 19).

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 659 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two-and-a-Half Per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the sinking fund and cancelled.

According to advices from Tirana the Albanian Government has decided to substitute notes for the present metal currency (says a Reuter message from Belgrade). The issuing of the notes will be entrusted to the Albanian National Bank, the establishment of which was recently approved.

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LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*ELYSIA, May 29.
*CIRCASSIA, June 12.
*OLYMPIA, June 26.
*CASTALIA, July 7.
*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.
*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

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THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT

BALANCE SHEET 31st JANUARY, 1925.

LIABILITIES.

	£E. m/m	£E. m/m	£ s. d.
Capital :—			
Shares—496,000 Ordinary of £5	2,418,000 —		
2,000 Deferred Shares of £5	9,750 —		
125,000 Preferred of £10 4 per cent. Cum.	1,218,750 —	3,646,500 —	3,740,000 0 0
Debentures, 3½ per cent.—			
£1,495,000	1,457,625—		
£2,680,000 guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	2,613,000 —	4,070,625 —	4,175,000
Reserves :—			
General Reserve Fund	907,311 052		
Special Reserve Fund	152.026 407		
		1,059,337.459	1,086,499 19 2
Provision for Depreciation on Investments, carried forward from last Balance Sheet		195,672 707	200,689 19 1
Undistributed Profits :—			
Ordinary Shareholders Account	273,737 539		
Deferred Shareholders Account	177,713 516		
		451,451 055	463,026 14 6
Sundry Creditors :—			
Interest Accrued on Preferred Shares	4,062 500		
Interest accrued on Debentures in circulation	37,964 972		
Unclaimed Dividends and Interest	12,947 418		
Sundries	56,163 951		
		111,138 841	113,988 11 1
Staff Provident Fund		86,540 955	88,759 19 1
Provision for items per contra, marked (a) to (c)		203,735 150	208,959 2 7
Provision for interest accrued and not due, as per contra		47,949 870	49,179 7 1
Profit and Loss		258,027 340	264,643 8 6
		10,130,978.377	10,390,747 1 1

ASSETS.

	£E. m/m	£E. m/m	£ s. d.
Loans :—			
On Mortgage, over £E1,000	97,638 014		
On Mortgage, £E1,000 and under	2,455,409 551		
On Note of Hand	2,559 —		
		2,555,606 565	2,621,734 18 9
Mortgage Company of Egypt Ltd.—			
Advances against Security		540,074 441	553,923 10 1
Cash in hand and at Bankers		693,235 562	711,010 16 8
Investments :—			
Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ per cent. Debentures at cost	622,433 070		
Government Securities	3,858,713 493		
(Value at market price on 31st January, 1925, £E4,098,130).			
Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., Ordinary and Preferred Shares* at cost	634,947 290		
		5,116,093 853	5,247,275, 14 11
Investment of General Reserve Fund :—			
Government Securities at cost		850,072 064	871,868 15 8
(Value at market price on 31st January, 1925, £E858,823).			
Buildings, Land, Furniture and Printing Office		24,678 —	25,310 15 5
Sundry Debtors		28,343 855	29,070 12 5
Staff Provident Fund Investment		71,189 017	73,014 7 6
Land expropriated (a)	9,206 881		
Debtors for Land expropriated (b)	14,820 303		
Instalments overdue (c) £E m/m			
Capital	113,541 857		
Interest	66,166 109		
	179,707 966		
		203,735 150	208,959 2 7
Interest accrued and not due		47,949 870	49,179 7 1
(*These include 197,715 Ordinary Shares of £st.5 each on which £1 5s. paid up.)			
		10,130,978 377	10,390,747 1 1

THEO. LEVI, Chief Accountant. **B. HORNSBY, President.** **R. G. WESTROPP, Managing Director.**

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and certify that in our opinion it is a full and fair Balance Sheet, and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the Books.

Cairo, the 23rd March, 1925.

RUSSELL & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Profit and Loss Account for the Period from 1st February, 1924, to 31st January, 1925.

	£E. m/m	£E. m/m	£ s. d.
General Expenses, including Depreciation on Buildings and Furniture, Contribution to Staff Provident Fund		90,390.699	92,708 8 2
Directors' Fees		2,535 —	2,600 0 0
National Bank of Egypt as per Statutes		11,616.085	11,913 18 8
Interest on Debentures		142,471.876	146,125 0 0
Interest on Preferred Shares		48,750 —	50,000 0 0
Loans and Instalments in Arrear, Current year		104,229.579	106,902 2 8
Interest on amounts carried forward :—			
A/c Ordinary Shares	13,035.121		
A/c Deferred Shares	8,462.548	21,497.669	22,048 17 10
General Reserve Fund		14,484.864	14,856 5 5
Special Reserve Fund		15,649.014	16,050 5 5
Amount available		258,027.340	264,643 8 6
		709,652.126	727,848 6 8

	£E m/m	£E. m/m	£ s. d.
Loans and Instalments in Arrear on January 31st, 1924, recovered in 1924/25		117,336.305	120,344 18 7
Amount recovered in respect of land expropriated, for which provision had been previously made	9,218.807		
Less :—			
Provision for Land Acquired in 1924/25	3,840.211		
		5,378.596	5,516 10
Interest Collected :—			
(a) On Loans in Arrear at January 31st, 1924	75,536.076		
(b) Interest on Arrears and Interest on Loans due in 1924/25	187,104.862	262,640.938	269,375 0 5
Interest on Loans over £E1,000		9,013.109	9,244 4 3
Interest on Investments and Advances		315,283.178	323,367 3
		709,652.126	727,848 6

THEO. LEVI, Chief Accountant. **B. HORNSBY, President.** **R. G. WESTROPP, Managing Director.**

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Company Meetings.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Bank's Strong Position.

Increased Dividends.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for 1924-5, submitted to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary general meeting, held at the offices of the bank in Cairo, on April 15, states:—

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1924-25, established in accordance with Article 40 of the Statutes, amount to £E490,999.179. From this amount there have to be deducted: (i) interest on debentures, £E142,471.876; (ii) provision for the reserve fund, £E14,484.864; (iii) provision for the special reserve fund, £E15,649.014; £E172,605.754; leaving £E318,393.425. And there have further to be deducted: (iv) dividend on £1,250,000 preferred shares, £E48,750; (v) commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E11,616.085; £E60,366.085; leaving £E258,027.340; which is available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares. The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; balance, £E137,127.340. The balance of £E137,127.340 is available for the ordinary shares to the extent of one-half, or £E68,563.670, and for the deferred shares to the extent of one-half, or £E68,563.670.

Ordinary Shares.—The amounts therefore available for dividend on these shares are as follows: balance from the year ending January 31, 1924, £E260,702.418; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E13,035.121; £E273,737.539; dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, as stated, £E120,900; further amount available, £E68,563.670; total, £E463,201.209. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, requiring £E241,800, and to carry forward the balance of £E221,401.209.

Deferred Shares.—The amounts available for dividend on these shares are as follows: balance from the year ending January 31, 1924, £E169,250.968; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E8,462.548; total, £E177,713.516; further amount available, £E68,563.670; total, £E246,277.186.

The directors propose to pay a dividend of £55 per share, requiring £E107,250, and to carry forward the balance of £E139,027.186.

The profits for this year are only slightly in excess of last year, but the directors are of opinion that the general situation of the bank justifies the increased dividends which they propose.

General and Reserve Investments.—We hold in our general investments and reserve investments £118,280 nominal of Turkisk 3½ Per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Loan and £64,800 nominal of Turkish 4 Per Cent. Egyptian Tribute Loan. The service of both these Loans has been suspended during the year by the Egyptian Government under circumstances of which you are no doubt fully aware.

Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd.—The dividend paid for the year ended March 31, 1924, was maintained at the rate of 12 per cent. The business done during the year was on a rather limited scale; as a consequence the Mortgage Company was not in a position to reinvest in loans the whole of the sums repaid as capital and the amount of the outstanding loans shows a further decline. The collection of the yearly instalments was somewhat more satisfactory than in the preceding year, resulting in a slight decrease in the arrears due to the company. The question as to whether the profits of the company are liable to British income tax is still undecided. A first decision was in favour of the company, but it has been appealed against.

Arrears.—Out of the instalments in arrear on January 31, 1924, amounting to £E207,798 a sum of £E193,092 has been either collected or written off during the year: the amounts collected are included as profit in the profit and loss account for £E117,336 as capital and £E75,536 as interest. The instalments due in 1924-25 which have not been collected in the year amount to £E165,002, of which £E 60,772 are for interest; no credit has been taken for this sum in the profit and loss account as, in accordance with the Statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The balance, £E104,230 representing capital due and not received in the course of the year has, as required by the statutes, been deducted from the receipts before arriving at the net profit for the year. Any encashments on the total outstanding arrears—£E179,708—will be included in the profits of the year in which they are effected.

Output and Collections.—We have made during the year 241 A loans for a total of £E7,055 and 11 B loans for a total of 38,200. The total of loans exceeding £E1,000 each was £E97,638 on January 31, 1925. The arrears on these loans were £E4,204. A sum of £E393,451 was collected out of the annual instalment of £E558,453 and a sum of £E192,873 was collected from the arrears, making a total collection of £E586,324. The percentage of the annual instalment collected is 70.5 per cent., against 68.8 per cent. as in the previous year. The collection of arrears has again improved, the percentage reaching 92.8 per cent., and the amount of arrears carried foward has fallen to £E179,708.

Expropriations.—The number of expropriations made by the bank during the year are as follows: number of cases in hand on 1/2/24, 761; number of cases begun during 1924-25, 518; total, 1,279; cases settled, 837; balance, 442; cases brought to expropriation, 49; balance pending, 393. In 18 of these cases of expropriation 86 feddans were bought in by the bank, and in 31 remaining cases 214 feddans were bought in by third parties.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).

Allotment of Valuable State Lands.

The ordinary general meeting of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., was held on April 30 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. B. C. Macnamara) 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: Gentlemen,—The dividend declared for the year ended December 31, 1923, by the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, whose shares we hold, was 25 per cent., or 125 lei per share. This dividend provided, as is explained later, a very large part of the cash required for the new shares taken up by us on the occasion of a further increase of capital of the Steaua Romana Company by approximately 25 per cent.—that is to say, from 465 to 585 million lei—by the issue of 240,000 new shares of 500 lei each.

This additional increase of capital was resolved upon in order to

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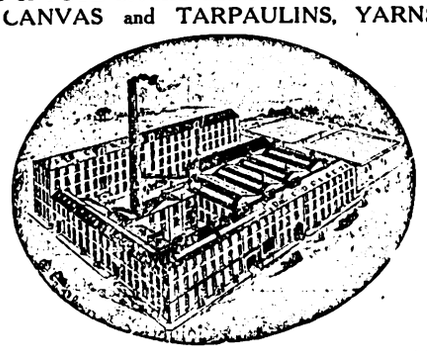

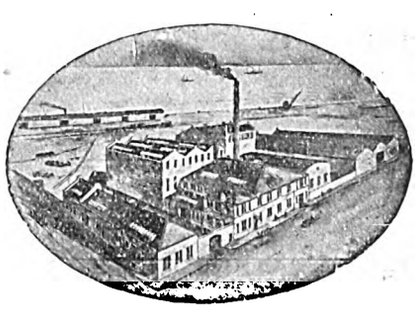

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bring the lei capital of the company a little nearer to a point at which it will more correctly represent the value of its assets in gold. This point is, however, still a very long way off, but it is questionable if any further attempt to secure an adjustment of this nature is either practicable or advisable until such time as Roumania comes to some decision as to her future financial policy.

During the period since the close of our financial year the new mining laws which have been so long under consideration in Roumania were passed and promulgated. They have been the subject, as you know, of a good deal of discussion and criticism, but I am pleased to be able to state that they are not directed against rights already acquired, and therefore that the former properties of the Steaua Romana are fully protected. One great advantage of them is that they permit of the valuable oil lands known as the "State Lands," belonging to the Roumanian State, being put into exploitation by companies who comply with one of the requirements of the new law by the process known as nationalising themselves. At the beginning of this year a conference took place in Paris between representatives of the Roumanian Government, the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, Steaua Francaise, and your company, to consider the steps to be taken to enable the Steaua Romana to fall in with this condition. In order to make the nationalisation immediately effective, it has been agreed that 35,000 new shares, carrying a plural vote, of the Roumanian Company shall be issued to the Roumanian Government, free of charge, and that 123 hectares of the best of the proved State lands be allotted to the Steaua Romana. This allotment has now been made, and was recently officially notified in the *Moniteur Officiel* of Roumania. Seventy-eight hectares of these lands are situated at Moreni, which is the richest known oilfield in Roumania; 25 hectares at Runcu, in continuation of the fields already owned by the Steaua Romana in that district; and 20 hectares at Ochiuri, a field in which results already obtained by other companies lead us to expect very valuable production.

It is the intention of the company to institute immediately an intensive drilling campaign on these now lands, and, judging from the large production which is now being obtained on neighbouring lands, there is every reason to anticipate that within a period of two to three years Steaua Romana will be obtaining a largely increased production from these new lands. The prospects of the company's older properties are also still satisfactory. The production from these lands during the period covered by this report—namely, July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924—was 237,546 tons (exclusive of about 6,000 tons received in payment of royalties in respect of drilling contracts), as compared with 230,843 tons during the previous 12 months. Since then there has been a further satisfactory increase in productions, the figures for the six months ended December 31, 1924, being 150,151 tons (exclusive of royalties amounting to 7,220 tons), as against 112,259 tons (also exclusive of royalties amounting to 1,500 tons) for the corresponding period of 1923—that is, an increase for the six months of about 40,000 tons.

Now, with regard to the position of your own company, you will see from the balance-sheet that at June 30, 1924, we held 124,939 shares, costing £1,073,719 9s. 3d. The figure at June 30, 1923, was 83,540 shares, costing £1,055,233 2s. 5d., so that it will be seen that the new shares have been acquired at a very moderate price.

At the last meeting you were informed of the details of a supplementary financial agreement which had been completed between your company and the Roumanian banking group. The principal sum due by the Roumanian group (after the addition of accrued interest during the year, as explained last year) is £1,117,051 9s. 2d. Five per cent. cash interest was received during the year amounting to £54,936 14s. 11d. Under the terms of the new agreement which has just been completed between the Roumanian Government, the Steaua Romana Company, and the British and French companies, the date of repayment of this loan has now been extended for a further period of ten years as regards approximately one-half of the loan, and for twenty years as regards the remainder, interest being payable at 6½ per cent. per annum in sterling and French francs respectively, subject, however, to possible earlier repayment if circumstances permit.

In respect of the first portion of the loan and the interest thereon the Steaua Romana Company has agreed to assume responsibility and to set aside as collateral security for this period 17 per cent. of the proceeds of the oil produced from the State lands which have now been allotted to it, until the capital sum representing this portion of the loan and interest theron has been satisfied. As security for the second portion of the loan we hold as before Steaua Romana shares belonging to the Roumanian group.

The voting agreement between the Roumanian group and the British and French companies has been extended until 1934, with an option to us to prolong it until 1944, while the commercial agreement between the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, and the British and French companies has been extended until 1947, with option to prolong until 1957.

From the explanations I have given you will gather that the new arrangements which have just been concluded are highly advantageous and vastly improve the position of your company.

The motion was seconded by Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., and was carried unanimously, and after the conclusion of the usual formal business the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended April 10 amounted to £E6,274.

The half-yearly drawing of the Roumania 4 Per Cent. External Loan of 1922 took place in Bucharest on April 30.

Debenture interest coupons of the Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt will be paid on or after May 15 by Barclays Bank, Ltd., 54 Lombard Street, E.C.

The African and Eastern Trade Corporation announces the payment on June 8 of an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, for the year 1924.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co. will be held at the offices at Meadi, Egypt, on May 21.

Harrisons and Crosfield have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. actual (subject to tax) in respect of the year ending June 30, 1925, on the deferred ordinary shares and the management shares.

Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) reports that telegraphic advice from the field has been received, stating that the company's No. 8 well is flowing at the estimated rate of 400 tons per day.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income tax), and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock of the company (free of income tax) for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants will be posted on May 14.

The meeting of the Suez Canal Company will be held in Paris on June 8. Holders of not less than twenty-five shares who are desirous of being present or represented must justify, at the head office of the company, 1, rue d'Astorg, Paris, before June 4, having deposited their shares with the company or at any of the company's appointed agents. Shares may be deposited in London with Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, who will in due course deliver a card of admission to the meeting, or a form of proxy.

Mr. J. C. Denison-Pender, at present joint managing director of the Eastern Telegraph Company, has been appointed, in addition, vice-chairman of the company. He has also been appointed vice-chairman of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, of which he is already a director. Vice-Admiral Grant, joint managing director with Mr. Pender of the Eastern Telegraph Company, has been elected to a seat on the Board of the Eastern Extension Company.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

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BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN TURKEY.

It has been known for some time that cotton growing has been developing rapidly in the Smyrna and Adana districts of Asiatic Turkey. It is therefore interesting to learn that the Turkish Trading Co. (a British company), under the Chairmanship of the Marquis of Graham, has arranged to establish a cotton seed oil crushing mill at Adana. This is the first mill of the kind to be opened in Turkey, and as the amount of cotton seed available is great, there should be a bright prospect in view for the enterprise.

At present most of the cotton from Adana finds its way to Italy or Belgium; but it is hoped that British mills in Lancashire may soon have an opportunity of sharing in the export, for they badly need further supplies of cheap raw material.

THE FIRST BRITISH GOLD COINAGE.

(From a Correspondent.)

It will probably surprise many people to learn that the first British gold coinage was based on a Macedonian model. Phillip II. of Macedon reformed the coinage of his country and his staters, with a head of Ares on one side, and a diminutive rider on a spirited horse on the other, are familiar to collectors. They found their way up the ancient inland trade routes into Central Europe more readily than those of Greece, whose energies were turned to the seas on the south, but they became abundant in the west when the Gauls returned from their raids in the Balkans, where they overran Greece itself, and brought back as loot immense quantities of these highly artistic coins.

The more civilised Kelts of England struck a gold coinage on this model, the only one familiar to them, at least 150, if not 200 years before Christ. Naturally, the design deteriorated, but the earlier ones were quite recognisable; the design, however, degenerated, and the later ones minted show a conventionalised design, in which the legs of the quadruped have become separated, and it would be impossible to see a horse in the sprawling lines, without a graduated series for comparison. To numerous people who believe that the history of Britain began with the invasion of Julius Caesar, this will probably come as news.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Weighing Machinery.—The Controller, Physical Department, 1, Sharia El Encha, Dawawin Post Office, invites tenders for the supply of weighing machinery. June 17.

Stationery.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of stationery articles. June 23.

Mechanical Sand Filters.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of 3 mechanical sand filters, of the gravitation type. June 10. (D.O.T.)

Pumping Plant.—The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of pumping plant and motors for a floating dock (D.O.T.).

INDIA.

White Lead and Steel Trenails or Chair Spikes.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, Ltd., invite tenders for 26½ tons white lead and 70,000 steel trenails or chair spikes, for 80 lb. B.H. rail (approximate weight, 53 tons). May 19.

TURKEY

Ferry Boats.—The Chirket-Hairie (The Bosphorus Ferry Service) proposes to place orders in the near future for 3 Ferry boats. (D.O.T.)

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
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"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The report of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the year ended December 31 last states that the number of cattle market days lost during the year in consequence of cattle plague was 464 as compared with 1,564 during the year 1923. Eight market days were also lost on account of plague amongst human beings and twelve other days owing to the attendances at markets being prevented by boycott. The gross receipts from the cattle markets, exclusive of slaughter houses, show an increase of £8,091 as compared with 1923, the total being £73,420 against £65,329. The gross receipts from the general markets were £35,516 as compared with £37,979 for 1923, a decrease of £2,463. The net receipts from the slaughter houses worked during the year were £1,222 against £1,283 during 1923, a decrease of £61. Three slaughter houses were taken over by the Government, leaving 40 with the company against 43 in the previous year. The expenses in the trading account show a decrease of £1,883 under rents, salaries and wages, and maintenance and repairs of markets. The net profit derived from the sale of miscellaneous articles and sundries is £8,921 as compared with £4,826 for the previous year, an increase of £4,095.

The net revenue from all sources for the year 1924 amounted to £71,295 14s. 7d., as compared with £57,350 2s. 7d. during the previous year, an increase of £13,945 12s. After deduction of the amount of £25,974 5s. 4d. which it is estimated will be required to meet payment of the Government share of profits, for 1924, a balance of £45,321 9s. 3d. remains, which, with the amount of £11,667 17s. 1d. brought forward from 1923, makes a total of £56,989 6s. 4d. to be dealt with. The fixed charges viz.:—the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, aggregating £3,720 16s. 6d., and debenture interest amounting to £2,840, make a total of £6,560 16s. 6d. The directors have transferred the sum of £4,000 to general reserve, and £2,000 to reserve for renewal of fencing, and a balance of £44,428 9s. 10d. thus remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 41) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1924, of 5 per cent., and a bonus of 5 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1924, a total of 15 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £26,205 and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and to such Corporation Profits Tax, as may be payable, the payment of a dividend (No. 15) on the deferred shares at the rate of £20 17s. 5 71/300d. per share for the year 1924, which will absorb £6,261 10s. 11d. and leave a balance of £11,961 18s. 11d. to be carried forward, which balance is also subject to the settlement above referred to.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

It is announced that in pursuance of powers conferred upon the directors of the East Indian Railway Company at the half-yearly meeting held on December 31, 1924, a final dividend in respect of the balance available in the surplus profits account will be paid on June 2, 1925, to the holders of deferred annuity capital and deferred annuity capital class "D" whose names were on the registers at that date of 14s. 6d. per cent., less income tax at 2s. 3d. in the £, together with 1s. 3d. per cent., less income tax at 4s. 6d. in the £, on account of the compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India, under Clause 4 of the contract with him of December 17, 1919, making 15s. 9d. in all, less income tax.

The Indian Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta, announces that the 1924-25 wheat crop is estimated at 8,631,000 tons from 31,883,000 acres; the supplementary cotton crop estimate is for 6,058,000 bales of 400 lb. from 26,461,000 acres; and the supplementary sesamum crop estimate is for 501,000 tons from 5,138,000 acres.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	260-271
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	300-310
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.05-25 10
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1 5 13/16 1.5 29/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	9.560-95.80
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,045-1,060
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 13/16-1 29/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	905.920
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.84½-84¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	92 55-92 80
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163¼-163¾
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	117.82-118-00
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	653
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.35-34.50
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.05-25.45

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India :—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.67.50.000**

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Capital Paid up - - - **£485,580**
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Total Assets- - - - **£6,536,334**

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GREECE.
Central Office : ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office : ALEXANDRIA.
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TURKEY.
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Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

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ARCHIBALD AULDJO JAMIESON, ESQ.
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WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, ESQ., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, ESQ.

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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA (Phillipine Islands)
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	

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WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
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DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan. Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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*MALOJA	21,000	May 8	May 15	Colombo and Australia
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*MANTUA	11,000	May 22	May 29	Straits, China, Japan
KAISAR-I-HIND	11,430	May 29	June 5	Bombay and Karachi
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MERKARA	8,234	May 9	May 16	East African Ports
*DOMALA	8,441	May 9	May 29	Bombay and Karachi
§DURENDA	7,241	May 16	May 23	Madras and Calcutta
§HATARANA	7,523	Jude 6	June 20	Bombay and Karachi
MANELA	8,303	May 30	June 6	Col., Madras, Calcutta
*MADURA	8,975	May 30	June 12	East African Ports

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JUN 5 1925

ANGORA ON TRIAL.

THE NEAR EAST

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925.

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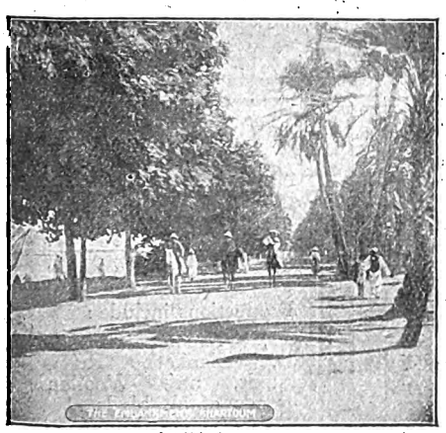

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 731.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925.

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"THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

The title of THE NEAR EAST will shortly be changed to THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA. As the name implies, increased attention will be paid in this journal to Indian affairs, and a special section will be devoted to their consideration.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Little Entente.

Another of the regular conferences of the three States of the Little Entente has taken place this week in Bucharest. Any grouping of Powers for pacific ends is better than a state of mutual suspicion that encourages unrest and intrigue; but the Little Entente offers the curious phenomenon of a grouping prompted by military aims in the cause of peace. Its sole basis is the inviolability of the Treaties of Versailles, Trianon and Neuilly, which it holds to have been divinely inspired ordinances, constructed for eternity. It, therefore, stands prepared for war against those who hold that the Treaties, where not actually unjust, call for modification in the light of the experience of the last four or five years. No responsible person would advocate the scrapping of the Treaties by means of violence; and the less that such a person is inclined to believe that only the strictest Christian principles found expression at the Peace Conference, the more he will wish to see the various treaties submitted to the test of practical experience. This, however, does not seem to be the attitude of the statesmen of the Little Entente, who, whatever they may do individually in their own countries, on the occasion of their joint conferences are careful to shut out of consideration the possibility that modifications here or there in the different treaties might still further strengthen the cause of peace. It was the boast of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that it contributed to the peace of Europe by suppressing the nationalist tendencies of the different races forced under its jurisdiction. Already there is a suspicious echo of the same line of thought when it is reported that the Little Entente, or at least two of its members, are concerned to bring the group's influence to bear in order to prevent Austria, if she should feel so inclined, from seeking through union with Germany a means of escape from economic bankruptcy. Again, the Bucharest conference, it was announced, was to examine the Hungarian situation, with special reference to the irredenist movement among the Magyar minorities in the Little Entente States. Another statement, which, with the necessary change in names, would have done duty for the Dual Monarchy's policy at any time of its existence.

The Way of Peace.

The Little Entente can hardly expect to convince British opinion that the peace of Europe is to be laid on a sure foundation by reviving the methods of Austria-Hungary. In the opinion of Lord Grey of Fallodon, "there is no security for any Power unless it be a security in which its neighbours have an equal share." Now, it is very evident that the neighbours of the Little Entente have no share in the security which that understanding holds out to the three members, inasmuch as it is specifically directed against two of the neighbours, Hungary and Bulgaria. At a moment when it was legitimate to suppose that Hungary had not made up her mind as to the necessity of accepting the Treaty of Trianon, the Little Entente served a useful purpose, and has, no doubt, contributed to the Magyar change of attitude. The mistake of the members of the Little Entente would seem to be to desire to convert a Big Stick, intended to make Hungary behave itself at a moment when it was minded to kick over the traces, into an instrument for the permanent regulation of Central and South-Eastern Europe. The Great War, if it taught any lesson at all, showed, particularly in the actions of the Czecho-Slovaks, Roumanians and Yugoslavs, that the Big Stick was in the last resort of no avail against the cause of freedom and justice. It is, therefore, a matter for regret to find the States who most of all benefited from the War posing as the champions of the Big Stick idea. Lasting peace will not be secured on such a basis. The first preliminary should be the removal of obvious grievances, and then should follow the grouping of countries with common economic interests rather than with a mere temporary similarity of political aims. A federation of the Balkan States will provide a bulwark to the cause of European peace that the Little Entente can never offer.

Cyprus.

The modification in the Cyprus Constitution in favour of the elective element of the Legislative Council and the throwing open some of the higher posts to Cypriots have been received with the usual protest fro mthe Greek organisation which is agitating for union with Greece. A grievance has been found in the reservation that only British nationals are allowed as candidates for the new posts. Until 1914 the inhabitants were technically Ottoman subjects, whether they happened to belong to the

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Greek Orthodox Church or were Moslems. When Great Britain annexed the island Ottoman subjects became automatically British subjects, but were given one year within which to leave the island, if they did not wish to become British nationals. It would now appear that some of the leading agitators for union with Greece were either not Cypriot born or have adopted Greek nationality. If it is the case, as alleged in the telegram from the Greek Press Bureau published in our issue last week, that the Cyprus Government has refused the application of Dr. Lanitis and others for British nationality, it would be necessary to know the reasons for the refusal before judgment can be passed on it. Conditions in Cyprus are admittedly anomalous, and not the least of the curious facts about the island is that it has belonged at one time or another in its history to Egypt, to Persia, to Assyria, to Rome, to Venice, to Genoa, to the Ottoman Empire and to the British Empire, but never to Greece. Another point which need not be overlooked is that the population numbers a little over three hundred thousand—the equivalent of the borough of West Ham or the county of Worcestershire—whereas, thanks to the vocal and telegraphic efforts of the agitators, it might be supposed to number as many millions.

The British Attitude.

Whether the British Government has acted in a niggardly spirit by closing administrative posts in a colony to foreigners, as is urged by a correspondent who claims to personify Justice, rather than merely to plead for it, would seem to call for more judicial investigation than "Justitia" has given to the subject. At first sight it would seem to be adding to the anomalies on the island to place in administrative posts men who are pledged to make, as far as they can, the Government of the island impossible. Certain it is, that, whether in office or out of office, the present leaders of the Union with Greece Movement will not cease their agitation. It is equally certain that, if the union of Cyprus with Greece were proclaimed, the rôle of the present agitators would be taken up by the Turkish minority, and the question arises whether that agitation would be dealt with by the Greek authorities as leniently as their was under British rule. Great Britain showed clearly in the case of the Ionian Islands that she does not hestitate to do the right thing when it can be done without injustice to others. At the present time it would be a manifest injustice to the Turkish minority, and would merely be throwing down a further bone of contention between Turkey and Greece, to place the Turkish population of Cyprus under Greek rule. When Greco- Turkish bitterness has subsided it may well be found that there will be little or no risk of international complications in handing over Cyprus to Greece; but to reach that happy moment it may be necessary to wait until all the present agitators are in their graves or repatriated to the Greece which they have so unpatriotically deprived all these months or years of their presence and talents.

The Macedonian Vendetta.

The Macedonian solution of the Macedonian problem, which seems to be the steady elimination of Macedonians by one another, has been advanced a further stage by the murder of Todor Panitza, one of the least reputable of a community that is now, as a result of recent events, in danger of being regarded as comprising only desperadoes. It would be a matter of regret if Europe were obliged to dismiss the question of Macedonia as merely the concern of a rather widely distributed collection of assassins and brigands; but until the vendetta between the two Macedonian camps, the pro-Communist Federalists and the anti-Communist Autonomists, has been stopped, it is useless to expect any serious consideration of the Macedonian question. The latest episode was even grimmer than some of its forerunners; a Macedonian girl, aged twenty-five years, invited Panitza, his wife and four companions to a box at the National Theatre in Vienna on May 8, and during the performance deliberately shot him dead at close range and wounded his wife and one of the other guests. While the Macedonian question is achieving unenviable notoriety in this way, it is the duty of those of the Organisation who know better not only to dissociate themselves from the regrettable events, but also to make it clear that they will henceforth set their faces resolutely against any appeal to force and will rely on constitutional methods of urging the justice of their cause.

Air Services to the East.

The importance of air services to the East was emphasised in a lecture before the Central Asian Society by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker last week. Thanks to his own personal enterprise in flying from this country to Rangoon and back, far more attention is likely to be paid now to the subject. The eventual establishment of an airship service to India has now been arranged for, by way of Ismailia, Baghdad and Karachi, and should be in operation within a couple of years. A chart of European airways, however, reveals the fact that Great Britain is in point of mileage, far behind France and Germany in the maintenance of air services to-day. The former country has to her credit the routes from Paris to Bucharest, with the temporary extension to Constantinople and for a short period to Angora, and from Paris to Warsaw; also the service from Marseilles to Morocco. Germany is responsible for a more varied programme, and additional ground is likely to be covered as a result of the latest amalgamation of German and Swiss air companies. For the British Empire Imperial Airways can at present point to the services to Paris, to Berlin, to Cologne and to Zurich; the Royal Air Force maintains a fortnightly mail service between Cairo and Baghdad, and in Australia there are two important air routes, along the Western coast, and between Melbourne and Sydney. Ultimately, no doubt, aeroplane lines will act as feeders to the airship service to the East; but it is to be hoped that the importance of maintaining British control from the air of our Mediterranean shipping routes will be recognised in time, so that a British aeroplane service to Egypt may be inaugurated before a foreign company blazes the trail.

INDIA.

Leadership of Bengal.

The latest news from Bengal presents a little drama of a kind which is not unknown in India, and which is quite familiar in countries possessed of longer political experience. In the first act we see Mr. Das, the Extremist leader, confronted with a party in open rebellion, and after the usual, and necessary, amount of strong language the curtain comes down with his resignation of his position. In the second act we learn, without much surprise, that the crack of the whip has brought the party to heel, Mr. Das remains the leader, and the rest of the proceedings are harmonious, if a trifle dull. The result seems to be that the extremist organisation has swung perceptibly in the direction of the centre, but it would be premature to infer a corresponding change in opinion. For proof of that we require acts and not merely words, and presumably the time for acts will not come until Lord Lytton has returned to his province. What the cable has not told us is the reason why the opposition to Mr. Das collapsed, but perhaps we may conclude that, when it came to a fight, there was nobody able to stand up against him. Whatever may be thought of his expressed opinions, there is no question of his power as a leader, and on public form there is no alternative to him within his party.

The Test of Hinduism.

More significant perhaps than these political discussions were the meetings of the rival Hindu organisations which were held recently in Calcutta. The two are very much alike. They prefer not to be called militant, but they agree in presenting a firm front against aggression from outside. Both stand for orthodox Hinduism, but while the Mahasabha stresses the Hinduism, the Sanatan Dharma is more concerned with orthodoxy. At the moment they are in conflict over the treatment of the untouchable classes. The former would like to see all Hindus united, and, to secure that object, they are prepared to discard the ancient institution of untouchability, and bring the oppressed classes into the defensive line. The latter are not inclined to go so far, and urge that the question should be left alone, because an attempt to force

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a decision must result in splitting the community. The matter is one which can be decided only by Hindus, that is to say by the great majority of the population of India, but at the same time it is permissible to remind the orthodox protagonists that the rest of the civilised world will judge the social value of Hinduism by the treatment of the untouchables more than by any other factor.

A Cure for Pessimism.

We so seldom find ourselves in agreement with the opinions put forward by Lala Lajpat Rai, that it is exceedingly pleasant to welcome him as a supporter of the view we have often expressed that pessimism lies at the root of most of India's present troubles. In his presidential address to the Hindu Mahasabha he attacked the pessimists boldly, and, while he naturally blamed the Government for fostering the evil, he was even harder on the leaders of his own community, who in his view leave nothing undone to make the nation spiritless and joyless. He wants to introduce joy into the life of the younger generation, to fill it with hope, and to create the will to win. We must leave it to the pundits to decide how far such sentiments can be reconciled with the older and stricter forms of Hindu thought, but in our judgment there can be no question that they are sound gospel in the India of to-day. We do not want to see India Americanised in the vulgar sense; what we look for is an effective synthesis, in which a measure of the cheerful optimism of Canada or Australia shall restore a reasonable balance in India's outlook on the world.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Art at Wembley.

The British Empire Exhibition was re-opened on Saturday with a great flourish of trumpets: the papers were full of the pomp and heraldry of the scene. One supposes this sort of celebration is in the best interests of the Exhibition, but it reminds one, when reading of it, too much of Gray's "Elegy." However, it is now over, and the thing to do is to hope for fine weather.

There is not much doubt that this year's Wembley will be more interesting than that of 1924. If the Palace of Arts, which is all of it that I have yet seen, is any criterion, it certainly will be on a very high plane. One would scarcely have believed that under a sort of official management so beautiful a collection of artistic objects could have been made—but it has been made, and surprisingly well. Last year's Art Palace was, of course, almost completely spoiled by the inclusion in it of the Queen's Doll House, to see which crowds with no jot of æsthetic sense ceaselessly surged. This year the room which the House occupied is most chastely given over to tapestries, and it is a rare delight to find in a show which is presumably mainly devoted to commercial ideals or ideas, such hangings as the Arthurian Legend of Burne-Jones and William Morris.

Again, most interesting retrospective collections have been made of English art: those representing English life —with such men as Hogarth and Zoffany as guides, and those representing Empire builders from the sixteenth century to the present time—most of whom have been painted by British artists. The modern collection, both of oils and water-colours, appears to have been both generously and yet discreetly made, and, what is perhaps more, these pictures have been well hung. The only room, of which the arrangement cannot be praised, is that devoted to sculpture. All the others, including the etchings, the arts of Australia, S. Africa, and Canada (Canada in particular is strong and colourful in her pictures), the applied arts, pottery, textiles, and the rest, have been admirably prepared. To be perfectly frank, it showed up Wembley in a new light to me, so honest and complete is this endeavour to show the Empire's artistic achievements.

One omission only was noted: the art of India. Whether, as last year, that is to be represented in some building where other Indian products are shown, I do not know; but it is a considerable omission from the Palace of Arts.

Food Prices.

The Food Commission over which Sir Auckland Geddes presided has now published its report, and, as had been feared, its proposals do not amount to very much. Actually, the suggestion is to create a Food Council (which shall include women of experience—not, like those who sat upon the Commission, who do not know the price of a pound of jam), that, wherever it observes the practice of unfair charges, shall so apply the threat of publicity as to make the fearful profiteer tremble in his boots and so bring his prices down. The Commission discovered that bakers' average incomes are nearly double what they were before the War, and that London butchers have doubled their incomes since 1913; and it does not appear to think the increase justified. Whether its proposals to reduce this increase will affect the situation remains, however, to be proved.

It is something which favours the chance of the adoption of its proposals that it does not prefer any system of Socialistic control of food-prices, and it seems quite possible that the Government may attempt to apply at least some of the recommendations. Certainly there is a widespread suspicion of undue profits accruing to those who supply us with food, and this suspicion may lead to an outcry if nothing is done to alleviate it. Cheap food is an axiom of our economic system: there is nothing like its opposite for being made the cause of overturning the system.

Alfred Lester.

It appears to be a peculiarly English form of humour that appreciates the tragic jest, the cheerfulness of a comedian whose heart-strings are snapping. There is no one who saw Alfred Lester, who has just died in Spain, but remembers with enjoyment—such enjoyment as no musical comedy since "The Arcadians" has produced—his lugubrious singing "I've got a motto." He did exceedingly well by his generation; a natural actor, he deserved every ounce of the success that at last came to him. There is on the present stage no one at all like him, despite the fact that his type is supposed to be a stage convention.

Merry May.

It is useless to deny it: this merry month of May has been very depressing. Rain and gloom, with occasional thunder, have been our unexpected lot. No grass court tennis club has been able to start; and in some parts of the country even those uncharacteristic cricket clubs which have decided to protect their wickets against the weather have found the outfield too wet to allow a game. Think of it: the average temperature last week was 56 degrees! Is it not past a joke? Surelye—as Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith's Sussex peasants would say—the authorities at Wembley think so.

Admiral Sturdee.

Admiral Sturdee, who died last week, has been compared to Lord Allenby as one of the very few commanders in the War who had a clear and complete success to their credit. His destruction of Von Spee's squadron off the Falklands was probably the most thorough act accomplished by the Navy during the War; how far he was responsible for the fate of Craddock in those far waters I am unable to say. His own avenging of Coronel rather blurred out the remembrance of Von Spee's success.

History may re-state his position: for this generation it is sufficient that he was a hero.

Lord Leverhulme.

Of Lord Leverhulme, who also died last week, it is more difficult to write without inside knowledge. He was an individualist of the type which is always thrown in the face of the Socialist as the thing which our capitalist system makes possible: the ultimate benefit of the individual's success upon the community as a whole—upon the nation, that is, as distinct from the Government's country—is not often calculated. Certainly he was a character: commercial Napoleons always are. There was scarcely a project that he could not traverse, whether it was the mutilation of a John portrait or the disfiguration

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of an African mountain range with an advertisement of Port Sunlight.

Of his deafness, from which, as he used to boast, he made a commercial success—it prevented him from listening to arguments and advice—many amusing stories are told. He was, in fact, the Ismet Pasha of the soap-industry.

Fish Scarcity.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-four was a poor year for English fishermen, and the cause was, at least as far as the East Coast was concerned, the number of seals on our shores. At an official meeting recently it was pointed out that, although 150 seals had been killed by fishermen and sportsmen in the Wash, the number of fish caught for human consumption had decreased considerably. On the East Coast, in fact, the seal problem has become acute.

To those who know how plentiful and voracious these seals are, it seems difficult to understand why the Fisheries Board are not more determined to get rid of the pest. Often and in great numbers they lie on the slopes of the outer sands, simply waiting to be shot—I have seen scores of them when sailing about Blakeney Harbour, for instance—and one can hardly believe that were a concerted effort made, more fish would not find their way to inland markets.

In view of this story, it is good to read that the shell fishing in the Eastern district was good. For crabs and lobsters and mussels and cockles, 1924 was a satisfactory year. There may be finer crabs and lobsters than those from North Norfolk, but I do not know of them; nor, in cockles, have I found anything to touch "Stiffkey Blues."

Business and the League.

It was somewhat surprising recently to find the Prime Minister and Mr. McKenna addressing the representatives of financial and commercial interests in the City in order to explain what British business owes to the existence and activities of the League of Nations. Started as a political ideal, the League appears to have become, as so many ideals become, a "business proposition." It is because of this fact, one imagines, that many foreign observers are apt to look suspiciously on the League as the instrument of Western capitalists. No doubt these two business statesmen had the best intentions in referring to the commercial possibilities of the League, but their visit to London business men, who mostly scoff at the League as utterly impracticable, has a curious significance and no doubt will be curiously interpreted.

ALTER EGO.

MOSUL AND PUBLICITY.

Messrs. Martin Hopkinson and Co., are to publish shortly Mr. H. C. Luke's "Mosul and its Minorities." As will be remembered, Mr. Luke was able to study the question of Mosul at first hand when he was Assistant Governor of Jerusalem, and he is illustrating his work with a number of reproductions and photographs.

Also, Major F. W. Chardin, one time Political Officer at Mosul, is on June 27 broadcasting on the subject of Mosul.

THE PROBLEMS OF GREECE.

Under the auspicies of the Anglo-Hellenic League, Mr. Percy Alden will to-day (Thursday), at 5.30 p.m., lecture at University College, Gower Street, on "Greece and her Problems." This lecture, to which admission is free, will be presided over by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves.

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THOUGHTS IN THE ORIENT EXPRESS: IN CROATIA.

By FEODORA STANCIOFF.

April 19.

Last night, when we entered our compartment in the Sofia carriage of the long and silent express, the conductor gave us a sleepy look of wonder: "To Sofia? But they say there is a revolution in Bulgaria!" I smiled over his brown cap at our luggage, hoping his political anxieties would make him overlook the bulk of our suitcases. The big station at Trieste was very quiet, and I watched a few straggling Italian soldiers in grey-green uniforms on the platform, where, as a child, I had watched the blue-clad figures of the Austrian Army. The grey-green had known years of grimness on the Carso round Montfalcona, but Trieste was a fine reward and they could laugh and sing in the city of their dreams, whereas——

The conductor interrupted my thought and chatted busily while he made the beds. He was a Belgian and told me Vandervelde was a great man. But he was a sceptic on Balkan affairs and not quite sure whether Sofia was safe. "You see Bulgaria is too scarcely populated. None of your brigands or communists could find a hiding place in Belgium. It is full up without them." The fact that I was Bulgarian led him to be soothing in the end, and he suggested that we ought to have an American Gendarmerie. Less practical schemes have been aired at Conferences!

And now, the big Express is rushing through the rich plains of Croatia. The young crops are full of promise, and the land is still and peaceful. Fleeting visions of peasant girls in their bright Sunday clothes are well in harmony with the blossom in the orchards. The villages are not those of the Balkans, and the silent Serbians who guard the little stations must needs compare the trim cottages of Croatia with their native and more primitive abodes. And like my grey-green soldiers of Trieste they may recall their grim war and say: "It was well worth it." The soldiers of Bulgaria, meanwhile, are fighting bands of communists on their own territory, and the newspapers of Europe print the too familiar head-lines associated with tragic events. Cabinet Ministers are annoyed by the "red" aspect of this particular crisis. The neighbours of Bulgaria, half cynical, half anxious will "reinforce their troops" on our frontiers. The average Londoner has read the last news of Bulgaria with a shrug of his shoulders and a muttered: "Blast those countries. They're not fit to govern themselves." Perhaps an army man who fought against our troops will say: "The poor beggars were clean fighters. I'm sorry for them." And of course there are those who know and have seen, and because they are our friends, will understand.

Will understand, that the soldiers of Bulgaria were patient and brave when they came back to their villages in 1918, but that patience and courage cannot be shamed for ever. A country can be tired out as well as an individual, and Bulgaria has suffered more than can ever be imagined abroad. There are those who say that she has herself increased her burdens by internal strife, political hatred and lack of system. Was there ever a country safe from such evils after losing a war?

To all the Governments of Europe and to the League of Nations Bulgaria has recalled that there are some 400,000 destitute refugees on her territory and that the germs from Moscow have only to come across the Black Sea to invade their camps with promises of autonomy and general freedom. Money, too, comes from Russia to the unemployed and underpaid, and the Government pay Reparations and struggle for the maintenance of a costly and far too weak contingent of volunteers.

Then suddenly the plots are rife and the bomb explodes as it did last week: the horror of the tragedy in the Cathedral of Sofia has been described by correspondents on the spot. They say that the struggle may soon be over. God grant it. As I look out on the peaceful fields of Croatia, I wonder whether any friendly conductor, who is so sceptical when he talks of the Balkans, would allow me to cherish a vision of the fields of Bulgaria and her brave peasants at work—at last—in peace!

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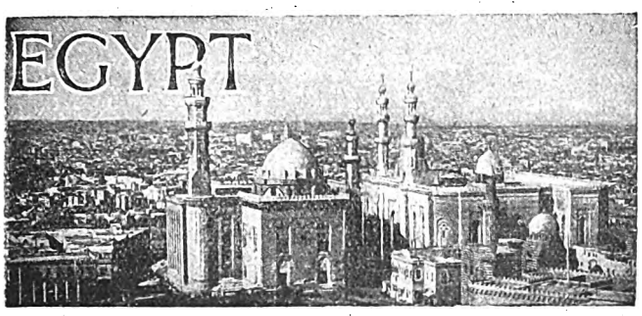
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents



Cairo, May 2.

A Lawyers' Petition.

The petition signed by 300 members of the Egyptian Bar, and submitted to the King on Thursday last, requesting His Majesty to protect the Constitution from the activities of the Zewar Ministry, has not attracted any large amount of popular attention, but none the less deserves at least passing notice. The failure to arouse much public interest is perhaps due to the fact that the document is written in somewhat obscure legal language and employs arguments the validity of which can be tested only by persons with considerable knowledge of the law. Translated into French, the petition is still more difficult to comprehend, but, in its general lines, it appears to follow the same course as most of the criticism of a similar kind that has appeared during the past few months. It is, indeed, a compilation of the various griefs of the Opposition since the resignation of the Zaghloul Ministry. As such, it contains little that is novel, and it is improbable that this comprehensive recital of complaints will incite the Government to reply, seeing that no answer has been given to the charges when previously made singly. The real answer of the Ministry to all such criticisms—although it is an answer that can hardly be published—is that its actions, many of them, have undoubtedly been unconstitutional, but the interests of the country, brought to such a dangerous plight by the men who now pose as sticklers for constitutional observance, demanded such action.

Zaghloulist Activity.

The petition, it is stated by the Zaghloulist Press, is to be the first of many, and in this fact there lies the chief significance of the document. The Zaghloulists, who for weeks past have been sulking in their tents, waiting, apparently, for something—such as a crisis over Jerabub—to turn up and provide them with a convenient stick wherewith to beat the Ministry, are now again giving signs of life, and, it seems, are about to embark on a more active opposition. That this reviving activity is unconnected with the rumours, steadily gaining ground and by no means killed by periodical official denials, of growing differences in the Cabinet, is hardly to be believed. It appears that the Opposition, temporarily cowed by the Government's exceptional measures for the maintenance of public security, sees in the prospect of division in the enemy camp a favourable opportunity for the development of its own offensive. The apparent activity is being accompanied by much that is not seen. Under the surface feelers are being put out to ascertain what would be the attitude of so-and-so in the event of such-and-such a situation arising. In other words, intrigue, which is a more accurate term for what in Egypt is called politics, is again rampant. It seems probable that the solidity of the Ministry will shortly be tested, and that the summer will not be the politically deadly dull period that recently seemed inevitable.

Important Trials.

Whether politics provides interest or not, the month of May promises to furnish the newspapers with much material for their columns, for there will be several unusually important trials during the Assize session which begins next week. The Sirdar murder case will, of course, eclipse all others, but, in addition, there will be the trial of the men accused of plotting and carrying out the vitriol attack on Sheikh el Maraghi, and in the course of the hearing there will be most interesting revelations of the tortuous intricacies of the Sakkakini inheritance affair. Arising out of that will come the charge against Hamed Pasha el Bassel, Vice-President of the Wafd, of accepting money in return for a promise to influence a judge who was trying the Sakkakini lawsuit. Lastly, there will be the long-deferred trial of Ibrahim el Gharbi and his associates. El Gharbi achieved remarkable notoriety because a writer called W. N. Willis made el Gharbi notorious as uncrowned king of Cairo's underworld, the central figure of a book called "Anti-Christ in Egypt." Many months ago el Gharbi was arrested on a whole series of charges of White Slave trafficking, abduction, seduction, and kindred crimes. After a long inquiry he was let out on bail. On May 18 he is to stand his trial, and the proceedings should provide much sensational "copy" unless, as some of the Arabic newspapers declare, most of the witnesses for the prosecution have disappeared, leaving no addresses, since the Parquet proceedings were closed.

Perennial Rumours.

Whenever the local journals find life even duller than usual they fall back on one or two unfailing controversial subjects—rightful ownership of an obscure Saharan oasis, or the intentions, as regards resignation, of the High Commissioner. During the past week much has been heard of both of these, but beyond the fact that the Arabic Press has affirmed that "No Egyptian will ever accept"—what is clearly the only solution that Italy intends to accept of the Jerabub question, and that Lord Allenby, only to-day returned from a trip to Palestine, will leave again on Wednesday for a few days' fishing at Assouan, little advance has been made towards the solution of either of these absorbing problems. To judge by his recent movements, the High Commissioner finds Cairo attractive chiefly because it is so easy to get away from, for during the past few weeks he seems hardly to have been in the capital at all.

Cairo's "Little Season."

Cairo is enjoying a kind of "little season," and the hotels are full of a stir and bustle usually associated with March rather than with May. The s.s. California brought 500 round-the-world tourists on Wednesday, the s.s. Canada brought 200 more on Friday, and to-day the s.s. Oronsay disembarked another 250, while over 300 passengers have disembarked at Suez during the past week in order to spend a busy twenty-four hours of sightseeing in Cairo before rejoining their ship at Port Said. Our visitors are seeing Cairo at its best. The weather is delightful, warm but not yet necessitating drill clothes or sun-helmets, the "better moon" is just old enough to make trips to the Pyramids one of the city's attractions, while the jacorandas, fairest of Egypt's flowering trees, are now a mauve and misty dream of loveliness.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, April 30.

Bolshevism.

The news of the outrage in Sofia Cathedral has revived the fear of Bolshevism that is always latent in this country, although it cannot be said that there are many evidences of Bolshevist activity here. One immediate result of this outrage has been the issuing of an order that May 1 is not to be observed as a public holiday, and that no badges are to be worn in the streets. All banks and Government offices will therefore be open to-morrow, contrary to the usual practice.

Apart altogether from Labour or Bolshevist questions, however, it is an old custom in Roumania to celebrate May 1 as the spring holiday, and there is a prevalent superstition that neglect to do so brings ill luck for the rest of the year. Doubtless, therefore, the usual private celebrations will be held.

The Little Entente.

The election of Hindenburg to the Presidency of the German Reich has caused quite a flutter in the circles of the Little Entente, which is to hold a meeting in Bucharest early in May, when the adoption of Poland as a fourth member may be discussed. Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Roumania have all expressed their willingness to welcome the proposed member, and it would appear that recent events in Germany have supplied even stronger reasons to all the parties for holding together.

GREECE.

Athens, April 29.

Greece and Bulgaria.

The permission granted by the Great Powers to Bulgaria to increase her Army has aroused much discontent in Greece, where a frantic hatred of everything Bulgarian still seems unfortunately rampant. The Greeks are on the horns of a dilemma; on the one hand, they cannot approve of the establishment of Communism in a neighbouring State, and on the other, Communism in Bulgaria can only be crushed by a larger Army than Sofia has had—which fact is also disquieting to the Greek mind.

Gentleman Brigands.

A short trip recently to the neighbourhood of Mount Olympus revealed the fact that the brigands Yangoulas, Babanis, and the rest, who a few weeks ago held up Athenian notables near Katerina, enjoy considerable popularity in those parts. Local folk were at pains to point out that these men, especially Yangoulas, were gentlemen in the best sense of the word. It appeared that they had been mishandled by justice in the early part of their careers, and had failed to get over it. It was explained that they would never touch foreigners or villagers, but only rich, idle Athenians, particularly politicians—in fact, they were modern Robin Hoods, to be sharply distinguished from petty sheepstealers who would rob a poor peasant of a few coppers, or like those who were responsible for the murder of the unfortunate American, Logan, near Arta.

The Refugee Problem.

One was also able to learn, while on this trip, that in Thessaly, which is the great agricultural province of Greece, there are huge numbers of refugees who are quite able to live on the small dole given them by the Government, and easily so, if their women folk can earn a little by field work. It is the complaint of the local authorities, indeed, that the refugees refuse the work found for them. On the other hand, the refugees allege that where they have been planted in villages evacuated by the Turks who have been "exchanged," the best fields and houses have often been already given to influential men of neighbouring villages who are not refugees at all. Clearly the refugee problem is not yet settled.

The New Racecourse.

Certain additions to the amenities of Athens have to be recorded. On Easter Monday the first race meeting was held on the newly established Race Club, which has built a completely equipped course on the shores of the Bay of Phaleron, and has imported a number of horses chiefly from Egypt. It was not surprising to find a certain amount of confusion at the first meeting, but in view of the passion for gambling of the Athenian public, there is no reason why the venture should not be a success.

The Golf Club.

At the same time a golf club has been started further down the coast at Ayios Kosmas, under the presidency of Prince Demidoff, late Russian Minister here. Many years ago there was a course among the stony foothills of Hymettos, but the mortality in balls and clubs was too appalling. The present course is chiefly of sand, and may easily be recognised by the presence of small red flags and of a club house—the rest will doubtless come in time. It is not probable that golf will appeal greatly to Greeks, and the club will have to rely for the most part on foreign support.

The Drachma.

One of the minor horrors of life, in addition to the arrival of summer, is the steady rise of the drachma from a comfortable 300 to a beggarly 240-250 to the pound sterling. There is no corresponding diminution in the cost of living.

PERSIA.

Teheran, April 14.

The Death of the Ex-Shah.

The news of the ex-Shah's death at San Remo was received here last week, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet immediately called on the Crown Prince to express their condolences, and the Ministries and Government offices were closed for two days.

The death of Mohamed Ali Mirza recalls to mind the stormy incidents of his brief and troubled reign. His father, Muzaffer ed-Din Shah, had shortly before his death reluctantly granted to a clamouring and insistent few a Constitution for which the country was wholly unsuited and in no way ready, and the very Persian name for which was up to that time quite unknown to the greater number of his subjects. Mohamed Ali, on ascending the throne in 1907, found this legacy a problem greater than he could successfully meet. An attempt was made on his life early in 1908, and in the summer of that year he was ill-advised enough to bombard and wreck the recently-erected Parliament House with the aid of his Brigade of Cossacks under the notorious Colonel Liakhoff, whom he appointed dictator of the town. This effectually squashed the Constitutionalist movement for the time being, but it was resuscitated during the same winter in Tabriz, which was occupied in the name of the Constitution by a local horse-dealer, Sattar Khan, and the desultory siege of which by the Royalist troops resulted in the introduction of Russian troops to bring supplies and aid to the besieged European residents, whose lives were said to be threatened by the inhabitants to force the intervention of one or other of the interested Powers. The military occupation of Northern Persia by Russia, thus begun, continued until the dismemberment of the Russian Empire following the Revolution in 1917. In the summer of 1909 the Constitutionalist cause was vindicated in Teheran,

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when a motley force, composed of hired Caucasian revolutionaries under Sepahalar Azam and a few hundred Bakhtiari tribesmen under Sardar Assad, slipped through the opposing Cossacks under cover of night and entered town the next morning, occupying the Parliament House and making what remained of the building their headquarters. The Shah was then in his summer residence outside the town, and when the Constitutionalists had firmly established their hold in the town, from which the Royalists were unable to eject them, Mohamed Ali saw that the game was up and took refuge in the Russian Legation up country, thereby abdicating and bringing to an end a short and stormy reign in which it is difficult to pick out a single good point or redeeming feature. His efforts to regain the throne a few years later with the help of his brother, Salar ed Dowleh, who raised the standard of rebellion in Kurdistan, proved fruitless, and for the last 13 years he had been living in exile in Europe.

The Return of Monarchist Feeling.

The death of Mohamed Ali Mirza accentuates the much-discussed question of whether his son, Sultan Ahmed Shah, will ever return to take up again the reins of government in his own country from which he has now been absent over two years. It will be remembered that last February much perturbation was caused here and abroad by the report that the Premier, Sardar Sepah, had delivered an ultimatum to the Parliament to the effect that they must choose between himself and the absent Shah. As the session was a secret one the true facts were not immediately divulged, and the above report, which was current in the town, does not appear to have been strictly known it seemed as if Sardar Sepah had asked for bread known it seemed as if Sirdar Sepah had asked for bread and been given a stone. It transpired, however, that he had merely asked for additional powers to cope with the successful government of the country, and the Mejliss, therefore, by virtue of the powers granted them by the Constitutionalist Law, appointed him to the High Command of all the armed forces of the country, directly responsible to the Parliament by which body alone his appointment could be cancelled or terminated, the Commandership-in-Chief, which according to the fundamental law is vested in the person of the Sovereign, being retained by the Shah. Sardar Sepah seemed quite satisfied with this, and in his speech to the Deputies thanking them for their confidence in him and for the appointment, he said it would be sufficient for his purpose, and concluded by saying that he had repeatedly written and telegraphed the Shah, without avail, to return to Persia, but that further efforts would be made to try to induce His Majesty to consent. In view of the reported terms of the ultimatum this last statement seemed rather inexplicable, but its effects were soon apparent, and interest in the Shah and Royal Family, which had during the past year, in fact since the agitation in favour of a Republic in February and March, 1924, been waning almost to vanishing point, suddenly revived, as was evidenced by the reappearance of the Valiahd at public functions and ceremonies. A day or two after the Mejliss' appointment, Sardar Sepah, who since his triumphal return from the South in January had markedly omitted to pay his respects to the Regent, made an official call on him which was returned a few days later, and on the occasion of the Persian New Year (March 21) the usual Salaam, which was last year neglected owing to the Republican movement, was this year held as usual by the Crown Prince. Two days later was the anniversary of the Shah's birthday and coronation, and this holiday, which also passed unnoticed last year, was observed with the customary illuminations and decorations, and the public Salaam, attended by the Premier and his Cabinet, Government officials, and all the diplomatic corps, was held by the Valiahd, supported by the Royal Princes, in front of the marble throne, with the usual pomp and splendour. In the evening a banquet was given at the Palace to the Ministers and heads of the foreign missions, followed by elaborate fireworks in the Palace grounds.

Everything is therefore ready for the Shah's return, and it only remains for His Majesty to carry out his oft-expressed intention of returning to his kingdom, after a sojourn abroad unprecedented in the history of the country.

General News.

The British Minister, Sir Percy Loraine, availed himself of the recent presence of Sir Samuel Hoare and Mr. Amery in Baghdad to pay that place a flying visit. He left Teheran on Monday of last week in a Junkers aeroplane as far as the frontier, where a British plane met him and took him on to Baghdad. He returned in the same way three days later.

A fortnight ago the public were invited by the Ministry of War to attend the inauguration by the Prime Minister of Persia's first wireless installation, recently purchased in Russia, a powerful machine capable of transmitting messages a great distance, and an interested crowd was present. The iron mast (there is only one at present), a hitherto unfamiliar object, erected on the drill ground at Kasr-i-Kajar, rises to a high of some 350 feet, and quite dwarfs the old Royal castle, now used as barracks, which has always been so conspicuous a landmark.

AIR ROUTES TO THE EAST.

On May 8, at the Royal United Service Institution, Air-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker lectured to the Central Asian Society upon "Air Routes to Asia," Sir Charles Yate being in the chair.

The lecturer first described what had been done in civil aviation since the War. All the nations, he said—Great Britain, France, America, Germany, and so on—were subsidised by their Governments, but this country had worked out a method peculiar to itself, by which the Government loaned to a private company, Imperial Airways, a million pounds for ten years, this to be repaid gradually at the end of that period.

The short routes which Great Britain was at present operating were only a form of experiment: France, with her route from Toulouse to Casablanca in Morocco, and to Dacca in Senegal, was the only country running a real Imperial air route. Sir Sefton went on to explain the aircraft in use at the moment, and dwelt on the safety, the reliability, and the economy of the new method of transport. The longer the route, he pointed out, the better in every way. After describing the improvements that were steadily being made in aviation, and explaining the airship scheme, he turned to the East.

The East, he said, offered some different factors in flying from the West—both disadvantages and advantages. Among the former he included:—(1) Loss of "lift." At Baghdad, for instance, the density of the atmosphere in hot weather was .82 of what it was here in normal times, and that equalled a height of 3,500 feet, implying an increase of horse power, or of surface, or of size of aerodrome; (2) Heavy rains. In Syria and Iraq, for instance, the rains reduced the aerodrome to bogs. In the Persian Gulf and in Central Asia generally, things were better, but at Calcutta and Rangoon it could be so bad as to force the use of boats, and aerodromes might have to be paved in the future; (3) The passage of high mountains; and (4) The difficulties of salvage. In Iraq, where the air trail had a track to guide it, it was easy enough, but in the Persian Gulf one might take three weeks to find assistance. Minor difficulties would be the housing and feeding of passengers *en route* to the East, capital expense, and the ventilation and comfort of cabins in a hot climate.

The advantages of the East, on the other hand, were:—(1) The weather, which ensured good and regular visibility. With this regularity, night flying would be developed; (2) The long distances over which there was no competition. He instanced the successful routes in

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Australia between Perth and Derby, and in America between New York and San Francisco.

Turning to the airship schemes for the East, Sir Sefton mentioned the work in hand at Ismailia and Karachi. This route would certainly develop—probably to Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, and so to Australia. The weather was the all-important thing to study: the airship navigator always aimed to get a following wind, and it might be that he would go from Egypt to India mostly by sea, and return by the land route, via Baghdad.

After explaining the attempt of the Germans to run a line in Persia, from Enzeli to Teheran (they had lately given up the Moscow-Teheran route because the Russians were so hopeless), and the French effort across Europe to Angora (Turkey had recently inhibited France from running further than Constantinople), the lecturer sketched the air route to the East at present under consideration. From Baghdad one could either proceed down to Basrah and along the Persian Gulf to Karachi, or go through Persian territory—Ispahan, Kirman, Duzdap, Quetta to India by the cooler route.

Sir Sefton, in conclusion, considered the problem in its Imperial aspect. The great failure of the British Empire lay in the fact that we had too great a population in Britain and too small a one overseas. The antidote was to improve Imperial communications. Every form of transport was required to this end. Aviation could bring the overseas dominions nearer home, could quicken up the mails, and could make possible visits of investigation and negotiation which were impossible to-day. Our national prosperity was due to the fact that we were a nation of sailors: we must now become a nation of airmen. When once Air Transport paid without artificial assistance (as Mr. Henry Ford was already convinced it could pay in America), it would, he said, boom in every part of the world. Since we could not, as Sir Hugh Trenchard lately suggested, "abolish the air," let us take the good things that aviation offered, and let us use it as a means of binding our Empire together more firmly.

In the subsequent discussion, Major Wood-Humphrey and Lord Winterton each testified to the need of Government and public assistance in the urgent task of developing our Imperial communications.

MUSIC OF THE EAST.

The world has waited long for one who would bring to the West in a form that it could understand the music of the East—the Moslem East, that is. Interpreters of its philosophy, its literature, its folk lore, we have had in plenty; but hitherto we have lacked a musical interpreter. Pseudo-Orientalists abound in music, of course, as they do in other forms of "art," but for the real thing the West has been patiently waiting, so patiently, in fact, that it had almost begun to doubt whether the soul and mind of the East were sufficiently musical to be brought, as it were, to our ears.

But, if I am not mistaken, the thing is being done, now in London. And the prophet has an Armenian name, Gudenian.

M. Haig Gudenian, who gave a violin recital of some of his Oriential compositions at the Æolian Hall on May 7, was born at Caesarea, the Anatolian town S.W. of Sivas. At an early age he went to Constantinople, to study at the University of what was then the capital of Turkey. Thence he went to more Western centres of culture to complete his musical training. Most of his musical sketches appear to be based on popular melodies—the folk songs of the Moslem East; but where he differs from other collectors is in the fact that he has not Westernized the melodies, neither in their essence, nor in the harmonising or accompanying piano parts. For the purpose of accurately reproducing them, indeed, he tunes his fiiddle in the Oriental way, that is, E. B. F sharp, B.

It is difficult, from one hearing of him, to generalise upon his merits. Let us here consider in detail the pieces with which he pleased and puzzled his audience. He broke the ground gently, as it were, with a simple, obvious imitation of camel's bells (skilfully distributed between harp and fiddle), called "Passing Caravans." That it is dedicated to Sir Richard Burton is suitable, but it would have stood of itself without any such explanation. In any case, "Passing Caravans" is not to music what "The Golden Journey" is to literature, although both may have derived from "Kasidah." It is "pretty," but its thought is thin, even shallow; it suggests the atmosphere of the East without its colouring.

Next came the "Candy Seller," a jolly story of a candy seller in Asiatic Turkey who sold sweetmeats in the form of chickens, and who sang, like the negro in America who saw the Holy Ghost with ears like a horse "but he wasn't a horse," "They have eyes, they do not see! They have ears, they do not hear! But. . . . they are sweet." It was a frank representation, typical enough, but the sort of thing, one thought, that any Westerner might do as well, the sort of thing, in fact, that Mr. John Heath has done in his "Macedonian Sketches."

Then, "In a Moslem Cemetery." This was a piece of extraordinary shadows, of cypress blackness broken by the twitterings and gabblings and arguments of dead musicians—minstrels, dervishes, wedding players, and the like. They are discussing the ultimate significance of musical effort. Upon their vain haranguings the voice of the Muezzin from a minaret far-off breaks in, and their tomb-stones re-close over them; whereupon the nightingale sings, and sings, and sings of love. As music this is a masterful composition; its technical mastery is amazing, and its mental attitude so judicial or serene that the problem is stated as having no solution. Certainly there is stuff in it for the brain as well as for the ear. Even so, I confess that the remembrance absurdly kept coming to me of Captain Armstrong's words: "I would rather hear a blackbird singing in a cool English garden than all the nightingales of Alemdar or Ispahan under the white moon."

After this, came the recitalist's *chef d'œuvre* of the evening: his "Omar Khayyam." Mrs. Rosa Newmarch, who wrote the programme notes, attempted with many references to Fitzgerald to explain this free, unclassifiable composition. It appears, however, to be as different from Fitzgerald as Fitzgerald is from Omar himself. It is much more difficult than is the English poet's rendering of the Oriental philosopher, less suave, profounder, more straggling. In its philosophy there is nothing popular nor yielding; it contains no magic, no message, no solution; it is a statement, not an interpretation. That, at any rate, was how it appeared to me—as if the composer's mind, rather than his soul, were at work, and as if the mental expression and environments of his early years, with their implication of fatalism and of the dignity of resignation had rather been drawn upon than the subsequent longings and ardours of an independent mind at work in the West. Pure guess-work, of course; and I would gaily eat my words if that were the price of a second hearing.

M. Gudenian next played a charming little English sonata of the early eighteenth century, just to show, presumably, what he could do with a fiddle tuned to the Western scale, and how refined his taste and unostentatious his methods were. (It also showed that good tone in Oriental music is a different thing from good tone in Occidental music.)

He ended with two little pieces (the second unaccompanied): "The Shepherd" and "The Lost Sheep." The first is a jolly little human document, the rhythmic changes of which keep its interest easily alive. The second, in which are represented the attempts, made on various instruments, of the shepherd to get his lost sheep back to the flock, has an extraordinary resource of technique. It is, naturally, definite programme music, and so realistic is it, that one can picture the sturdy peasant in his difficulty on the Anatolian uplands. Were it of a subject which Occidentals knew something of, it would undoubtedly be called "marvellous characterisation."

On second thoughts, I will postpone generalising upon M. Gudenian. He is giving two more recitals—at the Æolian Hall on May 15, and at the Queen's Hall on June 11—and it will be less difficult after hearing them. For the moment, it is enough to say that no student of the East, particularly of the Turkish and Persian East—for M. Gudenian has not so far suggested the spiritual colour of the Arabs—should miss these concerts: they are unique in the experience of London.

K. W.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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WILD TRIBES OF ASIA MINOR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The entertaining article on "The Wild Tribes of Asia Minor," which you published on April 23, irresistibly provokes some comment, for which, perhaps, you will be kind enough to spare a little space.

The Scythians are not quite so scantily known as the author suggests, as the work of Minns, Rostovstev and others have shown; they were quite distinct from the Mongolians, though there may well have been some Turanian admixture in their blood, but were an Iranian people, who formed a powerful empire in southern Russia from the VIIth to the end of the IInd Centuries, B.C. Towards the end of their prosperity, under pressure from the kindred but hostile Sarmatian from the east, who were set in motion in turn by the Mongols, who recoiled from the vigorous opposition of the Ts'in and Han dynasties of China and the construction of the Great Wall, the Scythians expanded into the Danube basin and even into Germany. Under the spade of Russian archaeologists, the kurgans of the Ukraine and Kuban have revealed their immense wealth and the high development of their very characteristic art. In the early days of their empire, they over-ran Asia Minor, leaving fragments at Sakasene and Scythene in Armenia, and probably much of the population of Cappadocia, Pontus and Armenia descended from Scythian settlers.

But the Scythians had been anticipated by the Thracians, who spread from the Balkans all round the shores of the Black Sea, and gave kings to the Cimmerian Bosphorous and founded ephemeral empires in Asia Minor.

The reference to Pomaks among the barbarian invaders of Byzantium is an anachronism, but the catalogue might well have included the Pechenegs and Kuman, the Huns and the Goths, and the Kelts and the Slavs. The Kelts established a kingdom in Galatia, and the names of many of their monarchs have come down to us.

And I venture to cross swords with the author when he refers to the Caucasus. The Albanians of to-day have have no connection with that distant region; the name is a mediæval European corruption of a purely local name, while the Albania of the Eastern Causasus is described by ancient geographers. The Albany in Piccadilly has probably as much connection. The Turcomans and Tatars, nomad folk, kept to their natural plains, while the Georgians and Daghestanli or Lesghians are true mountaineers. The former, who were Orthodox Christians when the Russians were still pagan, were never converted to Islam; of their near relatives the Mingrelians, one branch, the Laz, and one branch of the Gurians, the Adzhars, accepted Islam. All the other Georgians tribes, the Imeritians, Pshaves, Khevsurs, Svans and Kahketians, have always been Christian. The origin of the Georgians and of the Cherkess or Circassians, who are not connected, and their relationship is obscure. Some trace the former from Palestine. But while some of the Daghestanli are brown haired, the Georgians are as swarthy as the Armenians.

The Kurds, of course, are neither Turkish nor Tatar, which is much the same thing, nor has their language anything to do with Turkish or Arabic, beyond the inevitable loan-words. It is an Iranian tongue, and so akin to Persian. The scarcity of mirrors is not so astonishing in that wild land, but very natural; there must be vast districts in Asia to-day, and in Europe too, where a looking-glass is a curiosity.

The Laz is not a Greek, as we have seen, he is a Mingrelian who has accepted Islam, and his tongue is a dialect of Mingrelian, which is closely related to Georgian. Popular enthnology, like popular philology, is as vague in the Levant as in the west, and the Greeks of Trebizond, speaking their own patois of Romaic, are often enough referred to by the name of Laz, without any justification.

The word Yuruk means a shepherd; the Yuruks are probably undiluted Ottoman Turks, or possibly Seljuks, like the colony of Turks at Yenidje Vardar in Macedonia, which was there before the Ottomans came to Rumelia; the name probably has a little ethnic significance as the Amali, the hamals, the famous weight-carrying porters of Turkey.

There is abundant material for the ethnologist to work upon in Asia Minor, but the work must be on a scientific, and not a popular, basis; there is plenty to study in Yezidi, the Druses, the Assyrians, the Kizilbashi and others, and of the ancient pre-Turkish strains the most important is probably the Hittite, which has left that very characteristic type of countenance called Armenoid, which we Westerners generally call Jewish.

With many apologies for my outrageous intrusion upon your valuable space.—I am, etc.,

MALCOM BURR.

United University Club, April 29.

THE CONDITION OF BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Sofia outrages have focussed public attention once more on Bulgaria. They will no doubt evoke an outburst of indignation against the Communists that may contribute in securing the long-desired increase in the Bulgarian army; for many entertain the illusion that force can eradicate the causes which have turned this unfortunate country into a bloody arena, where passions have been let loose, and where the madness of destruction prevails. Repressive measures, however, will prove of no avail, for the main cause of the anomalous conditions, now obtaining, is wretchedness.

The frugality of the average Bulgarian is proverbial, and his standard of living exceedingly modest; all he demands is the right to live according to what is undoubtedly a very low standard of comfort. Unfortunately even this modest ideal is now unattainable, for he is crushed under an unbearable load of taxation. He, in fact, is the most heavily taxed individual in Europe; for over one-third of the national revenue is absorbed by the State budget, inordinately swollen by the payment of reparations, loan annuities and indemnities of all sorts. It is obvious that what is left over cannot suffice to meet both municipal and individual needs. (For the sake of comparison it may be noted that in Great Britain barely one-fifth of the national revenue is allocated to the cost of Government, and yet, we are vociferously clamouring for a reduction in taxation.)

It is obvious to all who live among this people that the economic situation is desperate. The cost of living has been yearly increasing, engendering widespread misery, despair and anarchy. The present smallholders, who form the bulk of the population, are no longer able to meet the increased taxation, and their numbers have gone to swell the ranks of the disaffected and exacerbated Communists. If to them be added the half million of wretched, starving refugees, who have been dumped into Bulgaria owing to the callousness of European Governments, and to their utter disregard of solemn pledges concerning the protection of ethnic minorities, one may begin to realise that the Zankoff Government is not faced with an easy task.

The fact that Bulgaria has been deprived of her richest provinces and forced to assume financial responsibilities incommensurate with her economic capacity has been forgotten too easily. This policy has resulted in a steady drain of her wealth, which is the very life-blood of a community. Her gradual pauperisation is proven by her adverse commercial balances of the past years, by the annually increasing number of protested commercial bills

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(Five millions in 1922, nine millions in 1923, and though the figure for 1924 is not yet available, it is known that it will again vastly exceed that of the previous year), and by the growing indebtedness of the State to the National Bank. Yet another proof of the critical state of Bulgaria's finances is the fact that this year some 4,000 teachers have been dismissed, and some hundreds of schools and colleges closed for lack of funds.

The Bulgarian Government, it is true, is wearing a mask of confidence; but this is the usual policy of the impecunious. It is the latter and not the rich who display extravagance, for it is only by false appearances that they can hope to bolster up their credit. It will therefore be an utter mistake to form an estimate of Bulgaria's economic potentiality after her sumptuous legations in the European capitals, or after the stability of her exchange. These are misleading signs of an apparent, but alas, non-existent prosperity. These artifices are indulged in, in the forlorn hope that punctual payment of reparations during a few years will eventually win a partial remission of the country's obligations and that the exemplary behaviour of the debtor State may at last breed sufficient confidence among its creditors to warrant their advancing to it a loan.

One may well be sceptical whether these hopes will ever materialise; at any rate, it is to be deplored that there is so little sincerity in the intercourse of nations and such an utter lack of sympathy; for with a little goodwill it would be an easy matter to lend a helping hand to Bulgaria in order to extricate her from the welter of anarchy into which she threatens to disappear.—I am, etc.,

G. CLENTON LOGIO.

Varna, April 23.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Those who wish well to Great Britain and Cyprus were much rejoiced at the recent announcement of the long delayed act of justice about to be consummated in giving the native people a fair share in their own government, after waiting for it for 47 years. For a Conservative Government to do this seemed a veritable "parturiunt montes," but the offspring turns out to be a "ridiculus mus."

In your "Notes of the Week," you say, "whether the effect of the new measures will be to make the Greek inhabitants more contented remains to be seen." But the telegrams from Limassol reveal a condition which is not likely to attain this end. "Only British Nationals are allowed as candidates for the posts now thrown open to Cypriots. Nearly all Cypriot politicians being Greek subjects, will be excluded." I suppose the present British Government would have advocated, had Germany conquered in the late war, that no British subjects, except those who accepted German nationality, should be allowed any share in the Government of Great Britain. It would be a nice Government, with a fair sprinkling of cowards and traitors. If we cannot, or will not, govern Cyprus in such a way as to satisfy the reasonable aspirations of her people, and win their regard and respect, let us hand over the country to those who can. If we will not offer them the bone of self-government which we ourselves have enjoyed for so many centuries, do not let us mock them with shadows, or shams.

I suppose it was asking too much to expect a Conservative Government to be Liberal. But we did expect them to be straight.—I am, etc.,

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THE SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In connection with Sir Harry Lamb's interesting letter which you published in your issue of May 7, may I point out that, in endeavouring to question the right of Messrs. Gleeson and Shealanlor, to write on Near Eastern matters, he rather overlooks the principal lines of their arguments? Both these writers appear to stress the point that, since relations between Yugoslavia and Albania have become cordial, it is difficult to understand why there should be any recommendation for a Serbo-Albanian frontier commission.

Sir Harry Lamb asks who are the Albanian *Kachacci*. The *Kachacci* were the Albanian bandits—partly political and partly highway robbers—whose activities were directed against the Yugoslavs by the late Bairam Tsuri. In castigating the *Kachacci* I am by no means an Albanophobe. I have many good friend amongst the Albanians and also amongst the Bulgarians; but that, to my mind, is no reason why I should become a Serbophobe. This continual hostility towards the Serbs can, as far as I can see, serve no useful purpose.—I am, etc.,

CECIL F. MELVILLE.

9, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2., May 9.

DR. A. H. SAYCE.

At the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society last Tuesday Lord Birkenhead presented the Triennial Gold Medal to the Rev. A. H. Sayce, D.Litt., L.L.D., D.D., an honorary vice-president of the society. The medal was founded in 1897 for the purpose of recognizing distinguished services in Oriental research. The only surviving former recipients are Sir George Grierson (1909) and Professor Herbert A. Giles (1922). The award to Dr. Sayce is based, in the first place, on the great length of his services to Oriental and Assyrian research. His first work, an Assyrian grammar, was published 53 years ago. His important contributions to cuneiform studies cover both the earliest and the latest stages. A second consideration is that of the extraordinary variety of the work of one of the few survivors of the Old Testament revision group. Vannic, Hittite, Cappadocian cuneiform, and Anatolian languages have been studied and illumined, side by side with Assyrian Babylonian literature.

DRY PRINTS OF IRAQ.

THE NEAR EAST has already had occasion to comment favourably upon the etchings and drawings that Mr. C. W. Cain has made of Iraq. It is pleasing to note that this young artist is now receiving wide recognition, and we congratulate the *Illustrated London News* on its reproduction, on April 11, of eight dry-points of Iraq which were included in Mr. Cain's recent exhibition at the Sloane Gallery. Among these are shown some particularly delicate work representing the Tigris and the port of Basrah. Students of the Middle East will eagerly look forward to the development of Mr. Cain's art.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

Arising out of the promotion of Sir William Tyrrell, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., to be Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following appointments have been made in the Foreign Office:

Mr. V. A. A. H. Wellesley, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, to be Deputy Under-Secretary of State.

Mr. J. D. Gregory, C.M.G., Counsellor in the Foreign Office, to be an Assistant Under-Secretary of State.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

May 14, 1925 (New Style).
May 1, 1925 (Old Style).
Shawall 20, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calandar,
Iyar 20, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Countess of Lytton leaves London to-day for India.

Princess Antoine Bibesco arrived last week at the Ritz Hotel, London.

Lady Margaret Bickersteth and Miss Ruth Bickersteth have arrived in London from Egypt.

M. Citori, of the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on May 5, from Madrid.

The Aga Khan arrived in London last Friday evening from Paris, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

Mr. Llewelyn Chisholm Dalton has been appointed a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

Major-General Sir Charles Ryan has returned to London and is staying at the Oriental Club, Hanover Square.

Zekiai Bey, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, who has been confined to his room through illness, is now better.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation returned to London last week from Bucharest.

Prince Barbu Stirbey, a brother-in-law of the Prime Minister of Roumania, left London on May 5 for Bucharest

The Greek Minister, who has been in Belgrade for the Serbo-Greek negotiations, is returning to London within the next week.

Lord and Lady Vestey, who left England in February for Egypt, have now returned to Kingswood, their Dulwich residence.

General Sir James and Lady Willcocks have arranged to leave England shortly for a prolonged sojourn in India and Kenya Colony.

His Excellency the Afghan Minister (Shuja-ed-Dowleh Khan) had the honour of being received by The Queen at Buckingham Palace on May 5.

Major-General Sir Louis and Lady Vaughan have arrived in London from India, and will be at Fleming's Hotel, Half Hoon Street, for the season.

The will of Mr. Nicholas Giannacopulo (73), of Oxford Gardens, Ladbroke Grove, W., formerly of Calcutta, India (net personality, £5,210) has been proved at £5,393.

Mr. Howard Kennard was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace last Thursday morning, and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade.

The Roumanian Minister in London and Madame Titulesco last Sunday entertained the Roumanian Colony at 50, Grosvenor Street, in celebration of the Anniversary of the Independence of Roumania.

At a dinner party given last Friday evening by Sir John and Lady Pretyman Newman at 79, Eaton Square, S.W., the guests included the Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco, Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape and Viscount Younger.

Professor Nagendra Nath Gangulee will read to the East Indian Association, on May 18, at 3.30 p.m., a paper on "The Problem of Rural Life in India." The lecture, at which Viscount Peel will take the chair, will be given at the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Orhan Bey, who has been appointed Second Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, has arrived in London from Angora.

The Secretary of State for India and the Countess of Birkenhead will hold a reception at the India office on Friday, July 3, to meet the Earl and Countess of Reading.

The King received at Buckingham Palace last Friday Major T. N. Watson, 5th King Edward's Own (Probyn's Horse) (Officer in Charge) and the King's Indian Orderly Officers, as follows, who were presented to his Majesty by Lieut.-Colonel A. D'A. G. Bannerman (Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India): Honorary Captain Chagar Singh, Sardar Bahadur, 1-17th Dogra Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own); Honorary Lieutenant Lakhi Ram, Bahadur, 1-9th Jat Regiment; Risaldar-Major Lakhpat Singh, 20th Lancers; and Subadar-Major Narain Singh, Indian Signal Corps.

The King has been pleased to appoint Sir Malcolm Stevenson, K.C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Cyprus, which was proclaimed a Colony on May 1. Sir Malcolm Stevenson has been actual High Commissioner of Cyprus since August, 1920, and before that was acting High Commissioner after the death, in office, of his predecessor, Sir J. E. Clauson in 1918. Sir Malcolm's earlier service had been in Ceylon, 1901-1915, and as Chief Secretary in Cyprus from 1915 to 1918. He was made a K.C.M.G. in 1923.

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925.

ANGORA ON TRIAL.

The trial of a Turkish newpaper editor and the sentence passed upon him are entirely a domestic concern of the Turks themselves. Comment upon them, however, in no way implies interference with the internal affairs of Turkey. Nations to-day do not live in watertight compartments, although some may wish that they did. There are certain features in modern life which can be said to be shared in common by all the people of the earth, and just as a great archæological discovery or an important invention in Turkey might set the world agog, so the fate of a single individual may arouse interest where, if he happens to be an editor, the name of his journal is unknown and a word of what he has written has never been read. The Press, whether it be regarded as an evil or as a power for good, is too strongly entrenched in the public life of all civilised countries to be entirely ignored; consequently Turkey cannot expect that the spectacular arrest of Hussein Jahid Bey and his sentence of perpetual banishment to an insignificant place on the road between Angora and Samsun will pass unnoticed abroad. There will be no thought of interference as between the Turkish Government and its press critic; but the incident will be held to furnish a very important indication of the mentality of the present rulers of the country and of the trend of their policy. The sequence of events leading up to the trial of Hussein Jahid Bey can be briefly recapitulated. The Kurdish revolt prompted the Turkish Government to pass a special law for the Maintenance of Order, and at once the Constantinople press came under the attention of the police. As soon as one paper had been suppressed, Hussein Jahid Bey, editor of the *Tanin*, announced that, in order to avoid the risk of becoming amenable to the new stringent law, he would make no editorial comment on any subject, but would confine himself to news and to articles of a literary, historical, or scientific character. A few weeks later, however, the *Tanin* applied a Turkish word signifying "raid" to a visit paid by the police to the political headquarters in Stambul of the Turkish Opposition, and for this lapse the paper was immediately suppressed and the subordinate staff arrested. Hussein Jahid Bey suffered the same fate the next day, and was conveyed to Angora for trial.

It became apparent at once in the proceedings before the Tribunal of Independence that Jahid Bey was being tried more for a general critical attitude towards the Angora authorities than for any specific breach of the law for the Maintenance of Order. His counterpart is well known in Western countries. A keen patriot, with an intellect and a political instinct the equal of if not the superior to any that the Government can marshal in its own ranks, he has elected to use the Press as the channel of his contribution to the building up and development of Turkey in preference to official life. He has found much to criticise, and has not spared his criticisms; but in the opinion of impartial observers there has never been any ground for impugning his sincerity or his loyalty to Turkey. His trial, therefore, resolved itself into an indictment of his attitude towards the Angora authorities. Jahid Bey was, as might have been expected, more than a match for his judges in the battle of wits; but whether his conduct of his own case was in the circumstances politic would seem open to doubt. His outspoken utterances clearly annoyed the tribunal; his defence was declared to be a tissue of lies, and to be calculated to mislead public opinion into a misconception regarding the Tribunals of Independence. He was accordingly condemned to "perpetual banishment," and ordered to reside at Chorum. Unless the Turkish Government has become entirely unnerved by the Kurdish revolt, we find it difficult to believe that this thoroughly stupid verdict will be allowed to stand. Even if Jahid Bey has abused his position and overstepped the bounds of criticism in the opinion of a Government that is trying conscientiously according to its lights to do its duty by the country, a sentence of "perpetual banishment" cannot be said to fit the crime. If the *Tanin* had identified itself with purely subversive doctrines, which threatened the well-being or the safety of the State, there might be much to be said for the removal of a dangerous writer. The gravamen of the charge against it appears to have been merely that it was too critical of the powers-that-be at Angora, and that it deliberately tried to bring the Government into ridicule. It may well prove an ill day for a country that has produced the eternal Nasr ed Din Hoja when the Government makes the poking of fun a crime and fears that the first whisper of criticism may bring down the whole republican edifice that it has so laboriously raised.

The Turkish republic, both the Angora authorities and the Grand National Assembly should realise, is just as weak as their fears represent it to be, and as strong as their confidence makes it. Nothing that Jahid Bey has said or written is calculated to undermine the stability of the republican régime as much as the spectacle of a Government frightened of a clever man, and bolstering itself up with laws for the Maintenance of Order and Tribunals of Independence. Europe was prepared to regard the Kurdish revolt as a very ordinary explosion on the part of a wild and restless people. It is only the action of the Turkish Government in allowing its cries of alarm to fill the earth that has made anyone wonder whether, after all, the erratic doings of Angora can have any permanency, when the foundations of the republic are supposed to rock, if a newspaper speaks of a police visit as a raid. The precise form of government in Turkey is a matter of indifference to the outside world; it is the Turks alone who are vitally concerned whether they are to live under a real democracy or have merely changed the despotic rule of a Sultan for the even more arbitrary tyranny of an unenlightened oligarchy. The unprejudiced visitor to Angora who is fortunate enough to meet Turkish Ministers and officials is left with no doubt as to the inherent superiority of the new régime over the old. Everywhere at the head of things one meets with clear views and good intentions; only when these have to be translated into action does the machinery reveal its weakness. If the demon of physical fear broods over the Turkish authorities at Angora as much as the verdict of their Tribunal of Independence in the Jahid Bey case will lead Europe and Turkey to suspect, then sooner or later the new order is doomed. No system is likely to succeed, if those responsible for it lack the courage of their convictions. Abdul Hamid lacked both belief in his system and personal courage, and so he relied on spies, delation, and terrorism, and his victims disappeared in the Bosphorus. He at least could pretend that he had to be on his guard against non-Turks and enemies of the country in their midst; the Turkish Government of to-day has to deal with its compatriots alone. If, therefore, the nationalism of Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his associates can make no stronger appeal to the better nature of the Turks than is implied by press laws and Tribunals of Independence and the substitution of Chorum for the Bosphorus, it will deserve no better of the country than the Hamidian régime. We believe, however, that it is capable of better things when it does not allow itself to be carried away by a childish jealousy and fear of Constantinople.

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THE INDIAN NATION.

In the last years of the Empire in China, an English guest at an official dinner given by Yuan Shih-kai, Viceroy of Chihli, afterwards first President of the Chinese Republic, found himself sitting next to an educated and intelligent Chinese gentleman. The Englishman remarked on the cosmopolitan nature of the gathering and said that twenty-one nationalities were represented at it. His neighbour replied, "Pardon me—nine." The Englishman persisted, but so did the Chinese; until the former asked, "Why do you insist that only nine nationalities are present?" The answer was, "There are eight foreign concessions in Tientsin. If there were any other foreign nation, it would have one too."

It is impossible not to sympathise with such a feeling; and it is something of the same sort that lies behind the demand of Indians for "full independence," to which the doctrine of "self-determination" lent a great impetus. Indian politicians were quick to acclaim its principle, although slow to apply its true significance to themselves.

The educated Indian looks round the world and sees backward Oriental countries such as Persia, China, Afghanistan (to say nothing of the Arab States so recently set up to whom the British mandatory Power holds out the prospect of early independence) governing themselves —badly, it is true, but still managing to carry on without falling to pieces—and asks: "Are we not at least as intelligent and as capable as they?" Such a feeling is natural enough, although the actual question is not difficult to answer. It is not only that India is not a nation, but a geographical expression covering almost endless divisions of race and language; in no other Oriental country is there anything even distantly resembling the deep and wide gulf that divides Hindu from Mussulman in India; and nowhere else in the world is to be found a parallel to the caste divisions among Hindus. Before it is possible to envisage a self-governing India, it is necessary to build up an Indian nation; without which, self-determination would mean, to India, what it has actually meant to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and in a far greater degree. A moral obligation lies upon Great Britain to prevent such an immense disaster as would be caused by a fifth of the entire population of the world falling back into the chaos from which she rescued it a century ago.

The Indian politician generally refuses to admit the validity of this answer. A few are found to say that, if chaos should result from the withdrawal of Great Britain, it will be "India's own funeral," and the concern of no one else. Others point to the present condition of China, with a population even greater than that of India, as an example of the worst that could happen; adding that, if Western nations would only leave China alone, to work out her destiny without interference, she would speedily put her own house in order; and that India can be trusted to do the same. They profess to believe that one of the main causes of communal dissension in India is the British policy of "*divide et impera*" and that dissension would disappear with the disappearance of the hand that fosters it. Others again seek to draw consolation from the composition of differences, racial, linguistic and religious, in South Africa and Canada, and prophesy their early extinction in Ireland, as proof that these are not insuperable obstacles. Still others admit the truth of the objection, and set themselves to remove it.

Foremost among the latter is Mr. Gandhi, the trend of whose preaching has been entirely in this direction. The cardinal points of his programme are Hindu-Mussulman unity: the elevation of the "untouchables"—in other words, the breaking down of the Hindu caste system: the establishment of National schools, one of whose principal functions should be the teaching of "Hindustani" as a *lingua franca* for India: the cult of the spinning wheel, as a means of organising a national industry in which all Indians, of whatever creed or race, can combine, as also in the national dress resulting from it, and which embodies its author's scheme, however fantastic, for the national economic independence of India: the abolition of drink, permissible to many castes of Hindus but abhorrent to all orthodox Mussulmans. Unfortunately, like so many reformers, Mr. Gandhi was not content to work for his ideal in the hope that future generations would hail him as the founder of the Indian nation; he wanted the applause of his contemporaries more than any possible recognition by posterity, and did not hesitate to appeal to the one instinct in which he saw a chance of immediate unity—racial animosity between Indians and Europeans. His condemnation of the "Satanic Government," qualified though it was by reservations far beyond the comprehension of any but an infinitesimal proportion of his adherents, was universally accepted as a condemnation of the European—of the foreigner whose "Satanic" individuality alone stood between Indians and the Utopia of the "Gandhi Raj."

The outcry caused in India by Mr. Lloyd George's "steel frame" speech is not yet forgotten, based as it was on the belief that the speech predicted the necessity for European control of India continuing for ever. Educated political opinion in India wishes to manage its own affairs but, at the same time, to retain the protection of the British Empire against foreign aggression and internal disturbance. Even among the most extreme of Indian politicians, there are few indeed who will not own to the latter desire equally with the former. Mr. C. R. Das has recently announced his adherence to the idea of a "United States of India" with a Federal Central Government, but does not appear to have expressed any definite opinion as to the composition of the latter. There was, at one time, a school of Indian thought which envisaged a British Viceroy, appointed by the King on the recommendation of India, who should be a constitutional ruler, acting on the advice of his Indian Ministers, and the personal head of a specially enlisted British Army for India, to which all orders should be issued in his name. Perhaps Mr. Das' imagination does not stretch so far ahead as that, and he may mean to suggest the continuance, at any rate for a long time to come, of effective European control at the centre, with Indian control of the component parts. If so, distant as any such form of government must necessarily be, it does at least offer a vision of what may eventually prove to be the solution of the problem of India.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Conversations in London.

The newspapers received by the mail are naturally full of predictions regarding the subject of the discussions between the Secretary of State and the Governor-General; but these differ widely from each other. *The Statesman* (Calcutta) declares that "the broad issue of the Reforms does not fall within the orbit of the Birkenhead-Reading conversations." The *Pioneer* (Allahabad) believes that "the conversations will probably deal less with the defects of the Constitution than with the possible administrative difficulties attendant on the almost complete adoption of the Lee proposals for Provincialisation and more rapid Indianisation of the Services"; and adds "Lord Birkenhead has accurately divined the vital difficulty with which the Government of India are likely to be confronted in carrying out successfully the policy laid down by Parliament. The maintenance of a regular supply of British recruits to the Indian Services is essential. The balance prescribed by the Lee Commission can be ensured only by removing the present disinclination of British youths of the right type to enter the Indian Services. For if India is to progress to the goal marked out for her, the provision of a competent and reliable civil administration is all-important, and it depends on the blending of British and Indian genius in the Services. The problem is a vital one; on its successful solution, the satisfactory progress of this country depends." *The Times of India* (Bombay) says that, "it is common knowledge" that one of the chief topics of conversation will be the constitutional situation in India; and that "it is widely believed that Lord Reading has gone home with a certain definite intention. It is thought that he is convinced that radical changes must be made in India, that the difficulties, the trials, even the dangers of persisting in an attempt to carry on government with the existing constitutional

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machinery are likely to be so overwhelming that no man ought to be asked to attempt it. It is freely declared that he has in mind the appointment of a Commission which, he hopes, will recommend the early establishment of full provincial autonomy, at least in some of the provinces, that the present provincial groupings should be revised and that some method be planned for the introduction of a measure of responsibility into the Government of India. If it is true that the work of Mr. Montagu is already crumbling, Lord Birkenhead is not the type of man to shore it up and 'make it do' for another few years. He will insist on clearing the ground of the wreckage and will build another building after his own taste." *Commerce* (Calcutta), while not professing to guess at the exact purpose of Lord Reading's journey, writes: "Whether the broad principle of the Reforms is to be debated, or whether their lordships' conversations will be confined to less radical matters, they must inevitably react in some measure on the many aspects of European business activity in India. And, maybe, with the not unusual nonchalance of the political practitioner, the economic significance of their deliberations will be the last side of the matter to which they will turn."

The Non-Official European.

Sir Campbell Rhodes, the newly-appointed member of the India Council, left India on April 12, sailing from Karachi, where he delivered an address to the local branch of the European Association. He laid stress on the value to India of the European non-official who "during the last hundred years had taken the leading part in the financial and social development of India, but on whom the Reforms had placed another rôle—that they should also play the leading part in the political development of the country." He urged the Association not to overlook the necessity of training young business men in the work of the Assembly and Council at Delhi, in which the fourteen non-official European members formed "the nucleus of a strong opinion of which every advantage should be taken. The European had greater value and greater responsibility in India than ever before; India was the biggest problem in constitution-making that the world had ever seen, and he hoped that young Europeans in India would take a very prominent part in its solution."

The Calcutta *Commerce*, in its issue of April 18, raises the same point, perhaps in consequence of Sir Campbell Rhodes' speech: "Political and constitutional changes invariably react on business conditions and, in the new circumstances which the events of the last six years have created, politics and business in this country are more closely related than is the case in most others. . . . European business interests in India have got to identify themselves more closely and definitely with the political life of the country. The idea that politics are no concern of the temporary European resident, and that by divine ordination he will continue to prosper, is in our opinion one which will in the end prove fatal. It is greatly to the interest of all that the leading community should take its proper share in the political life of the country, not least to that community itself. . . . As long as representation in the central and provincial legislatures is based largely on communal and vocational distinctions, European business interests are, to some extent, automatically safeguarded. In the process of time, however, the legislatures are likely to take on a more democratic tinge. That day is not far off, and it is in preparation for it that we urge the desirability of a greater and more intelligent interest in the affairs of the State by its most important component."

Indian Constitution-Making.

At the "National Convention" held at Cawnpore in April, Mrs Besant announced that a "Commonwealth of India Bill" had been drafted, for despatch to England and presentation to Parliament. The actual text of the Bill had not yet been announced, when the last mail left India; but Mrs. Besant explained that "she was planning agitation on a large scale in support of the Bill both in India and in England," and that recruits to the National Convention would be required to take the following pledge: "I promise to support the establishment in India of a Free Commonwealth with the King-Emperor as its head, with a Central and Provincial Governments, each consisting of a King's representative, a Cabinet responsible to an elected legislature, and a judiciary, with a provision for the amendment of the Constitution similar to that possessed by the self-governing Dominions, with a provision also for such transitional arrangements for an army, navy, and air-force as will bring them under the control of the Central Legislature when the Cabinet, supported by the Legislature, declares its readiness to assume responsibility for the defence of the Commonwealth. I promise not to engage in any secret conspiracy and not to use any but peaceful and law-abiding means to gain the above objects."

Mrs. Besant also attended, at the same place and time, the United Provinces Liberal Conference. The members of this professedly "Moderate" Conference unanimously passed a resolution condemning the decision of His Majesty's Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission, which were "incompatible with steady progress towards responsible government" and declaring that "the campaign inaugurated in the British Isles, at the instance of the Secretary of State and at India's expense, to bring more non-Indian recruits into the services, was adding insult to injury."

Communal Bitterness.

The apostles of "Hindu-Muslim Unity" in India continually prophesy the early success of their efforts. The following quotation, from speeches by two of the most prominent protagonists on either side, as reported in the Indian Press, provide a useful commentary on this claim. Dr. Kitchlew, at Peshawar, in February: "If you Hindus do not agree to accept our claims and rights in the trade, public services and administration of the country, then we will be compelled to establish our supremacy by making alliances with Afghanistan and other Muslim Powers. We Mussulmans have come into the world to rule. If we find that there is danger of our becoming slaves of the Hindus, then we will leave no stone unturned in securing the help of other foreign Muslim Powers. If we are to remain as slaves, then it is better to be the slaves of our own co-religionists. This is my challenge, not on behalf of myself, but on behalf of the seventy million Muslims of India, and I wish it to be made known to every Indian Hindu." Mr. N. C. Kelkar, at Ahmedabad, in April, appealed for unity among Hindus in order to frustrate the efforts of Mohammedan missionaries, which were "far more aggressive, subtle, bold, unscrupulous and penetrating" than the methods of Christian missionaries.

Indian Tea in the United States.

The *Pioneer* (Allahabad) commenting on the advertising campaign for popularising Indian tea in the United States,

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remarks that there are solid grounds for enthusiasm in the shape of an increase of three million pounds in the sales of Indian tea in that country during 1924. "The increase in itself is satisfactory enough. But where a greater ground for optimism lies is in the fact that every extra pound sold represents in itself a potential advertisement. What those in charge of the campaign have mainly had to contend with is the general lack of knowledge in America, not only of the merits of Indian tea as a beverage, but of everything connected with the product. Tea drinkers in the United States had for the most part been used to Japanese green tea—a light-liquoring tea which was drunk without milk. Consequently, when they tried Indian tea prepared in the same way, they not unnaturally came to the immediate conclusion that the main thing about the beverage was that it was one to avoid. The work of popularisation, therefore, resolved itself into one of education. Now that a section of the American public has learned what Indian tea really is and how it should be prepared, it is reasonable to hope that the process of education will continue to some extent automatically."

American Trade Bulletin.

Commercial circles in India have been much interested by the appearance of a bulletin, issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States Department of Commerce, in which American exporters to India are informed that "Cheapness and not quality is the main requisite. . . With very few exceptions, ninety per cent. of India's millions cannot purchase other than bare necessities until such time as her earning power and consequent purchasing power have greatly improved. . . The productive power of her huge armies of low-paid labourers, combined with the output of her factories and mills, result in an annual increase in national wealth, accruing from excess of production over consumption, much more considerable than would be supposed. In the Occident a very large part of such national surpluses is divided among the masses, who spend it on comforts and luxuries for themselves. In India, however, the greater portion of this surplus is retained by money-lenders, landlords, factory owners, merchants and other capitalists and employers of labour. The problem for each American merchant is, therefore, how to reach the owners of this surplus in such a way that they will buy his products. Success is more likely to attend a man who arouses and satisfies the desires of the classes rather than of the masses. . . ..providing the prices are competitive and supported by reasonable and intelligent advertising . . . . Manufacturers must constantly bear in mind that the more important distributors in India are Britishers, who are convinced that British goods are far superior to American goods of equal price, so that, when preparing their advertising copy, they will consider not only the appeal to the consumer but the fact that the dealer must also be "sold" and kept so. Newspaper advertising is by far the most common form of commercial publicity met with in India. . . . The European and the Anglo-Indian read the English newspapers with thoroughness, and advertisements placed in them will attract the attention of this class of buyer. . . . Advertisements placed in vernacular papers which circulate in the rural districts can be considered only as advertisements for dealers. . . the advertisement must appeal to the merchant, as it is only through him that the purchaser can be reached. The advertiser must bear in mind that the Indian market is a conservative one. One or two full-page spreads will accomplish little. The effort must be a sustained one spread over a reasonable period of time. . . . It would well repay American manufacturers, before attempting to enter the Indian market, to make as thorough a preliminary study of the conditions as possible, and not simply to take it for granted that, because an article sells in the United States, it is likewise bound to sell in India. . . Once a decision has been reached to go after Indian business, that decision must be backed by a willingness to spend a reasonable amount of time and money to make sure of success. Results cannot be obtained overnight in India."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A WANDERING ZIONIST.

"The Journal of a Jewish Traveller." By Israel Cohen (London: The Bodley Head, 15s. net.)

This is not the book of travel to which we are accustomed. This traveller had no time for "sights," and so these are mostly ignored. Nor does he make any attempt to give an idea of the political or economical conditions of the lands visited, for he had other things to attend to. Mr. Cohen made his lightning trip of nine months or so some four years ago. It was a very strenuous one, and was devoted entirely to expounding the meaning of the Balfour Declaration, then new, to his fellow Jews in distant lands, and in calling on them to provide the sinews for war for the Zionist endeavours to make its provisions a reality to the Jewish nation. He went as a propagandist, proclaiming eloquently the faith which is strong in him, and urging his fellow religionists to do what was in their power to help the objects which he has so deeply at heart. Arranging his tour so as to begin and end it in Palestine, he visited Egypt, the chief towns of Australia and New Zealand, Manila, North China from Shanghai and Pekin to Harbin, Hong Kong, the Straits Settlements, Java and some of the chief towns of the Northern parts of India. To get over the ground in the time was in itself something of a feat, and the amount of solid hard work put in by him during his rush round makes the reader's head swim. The strain must have been very great, but he fully takes the reader with him, and we feel with him the one conspicuous failure at Manila.

All this is interesting, but it is by no means all that the book means. Mr. Cohen is a recognised authority on modern Jewry, and his practised mind enabled him to collect and set down much information concerning the life, occupations and surroundings of Jews at the places visited by him which is both interesting and valuable. All through the book we realise the terrible reality of the *diaspora*, concerning which we must quote a few lines from the chapter on Singapore:—"The most ardent Zionist in the colony was a native of East Prussia, was married to a wife from Bulgaria in Melbourne, and had a son born in Manila." The Russian Jew and the Jewish "bookie" seem to be ubiquitous, the Crypto-Jews from Meshed selling their carpets in Bombay are pathetically interesting, and the magnificent commercial enterprise of the great Baghdad Jewish families all over the Far East and India creates respect for their sterling qualities and queer old-world ways. Indeed, as the new Jewish colonists in Palestine call themselves *haluzim* or pioneers, so the Jews all over the world are shown to us as the *haluzim* of commerce, while retaining to a marvellous extent their conspicuous domestic virtues and exhibiting a generosity which seems to have astonished even our author. The feeling of the Jew towards his old homeland is far more intense and deep than most Gentiles realise. Zionism is shown by Mr. Cohen to be justified by its reception among its own.

While fully realising that a *détour* to the White and Black Jew communities of Cochin was inadmissible, considering the nature of his mission, we much regret that we have to do without an account of these very interesting people, specially after reading his sketch of the similar community of *Bene Israel* at Bombay. Want of time alone can have justified his omission of Baghdad.

We could have wished that Mr. Cohen had kept "sights" rigidly out of his book. The few snapshots he gives us are not interesting, and it is not edifying to hear the great Shwe Dagon Pagoda at Rangoon spoken of as

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if it were a Hindu temple or to have Jehangir's "Mahal" in the Agra Fort described as a "Hindu Palace." We would willingly have exchanged such passages for a few more particulars about his hosts and their ways.

His short account of work being done by the Jews in Palestine is very stimulating. There seems to be but little dislike of the Arabs among the Jewish residents. An extract from the remarks of an old Jewish colonist is of interest: "Have we not lived," he says, "in peace and friendship with the Arabs for years——The effendis are afraid of us, for they fear that their exploitation of the fellaheen will now be brought to an end, and so they stir up against us the victims of their own cupidity." It takes two to make a permanent quarrel, so we hope that the wise old colonists will succeed in keeping up the attitude of "peace and friendship."

"APOLLO."

We have received for review the May issue of the new journal of the Arts, *Apollo*. *Apollo* is a monthly magazine, published at half-a-crown. It is exquisitely produced, and sanely and interestingly written. So far as this May number enables one to judge, it endeavours, without being too recondite or "high-brow," to cover a wide field—painting, etching, armoury, sculpture, architecture, pottery, music, and so on. The success of an art journal is notoriously problematical, but if the standard of *Apollo* as it is at present conducted be maintained, such success seems assured. This stimulating number, which is abundantly and superbly illustrated, includes, among many good things, particularly interesting articles by Mr. Lionel Cust, Mr. Ernest Marsh, and Mr. Malcolm Salaman.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Cruise of the Nona." By H. Belloc. (London: Constable and Co. 15s. net.)

"Modern Russian Literature." By Prince D. S. Mirsky. (London: Oxford University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

"What the League of Nations Is." By H. Wilson Harris, M.A. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Palestine of the Mandate." By W. Basil Worsfold. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Lokayata." By Mahamahopadhaya H. P. Shastri, M.A., C.I.E. (London: Oxford University Press. 8d net.)

"History of the Byzantine Empire." By Charles Diehl. Translated from the French by George B. Ives. (London: Oxford University Press. 11s. 6d. net.)

"The Wandering Scholar." By David G. Hogarth. (London: Humphrey Milford. 8s. 6d. net.)

"An Anthology of Indian Tales." By C. A. Kincaid, C.V.O. (London: Humphrey Milford. 1s. 3d. net.)

"The Early History of Bengal." By R. C. Majumdar, M.A., Ph.D. (London: Humphrey Milford. 1s. 6d. net.)

"Sind. A Re-Interpretation of The Unhappy Valley." By J. Abbott, I.C.S., B.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The *Quarterly Statement* (April) of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains some extremely interesting matter. Philip Baldensperger has a learned article upon "The Immovable East," the Rev. J. Garrow Duncan writes upon "A Leaden Ossuary," and—which will probably be of most general interest—Redcliffe Salaman concludes his article on "What has become of the Philistines?" A biological examination of the problem leads Dr. Salaman to the conclusion that the Philistine was never lost, that he was gradually absorbed into the Israelitish nation, and that he survives in the Pseudo-Gentile Jew of to-day, such as in the younger generation now springing up in the Jewish colonies in Palestine.

Lady Sholto Douglas was married on April 6 at Baden, near Vienna, to Prince Mehmed Burhan-ed-Din, son of the late Abdul Hamid, Sultan of Turkey.

The Governor of Bengal has certified items of expediture rejected by the Bengal Legislative Council in respect of land revenue and the Calcutta police amounting to 474,000 rupees.

A group composed of Englishmen and Roumanians interested in literature and art have founded in Bucharest an Anglo-Roumanian Society with the object of strengthening the friendship between the two countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar ("Ranji") left Bombay last week for England.

Mr. Peter Jay, United States Minister in Bucharest, who has been appointed U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, left Bucharest last week.

Considerable progress has been made with the construction of the British Legation at Kabul, which will, it is hoped, be ready for occupation next year.

Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, arrived at Cairo last week and left for a short visit to Palestine on May 10, after which he will come to London.

Mr. Cherrie, the manager of the Simpson-Roosevelt Field Museum Expedition, which is going to Central Asia, left Karachi for Srinagar last Saturday.

The Viceroy of India has sent a telegram congratulating the Marquis di Pinedo, the Italian airman, on his safe arrival in India, and wishing him succes in his further journey to the Far East.

The Yugoslav-Greek negotiations, which had been interrupted owing to the absence of M. Nintchitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, at Bucharest, have now been resumed at Belgrade.

Sir Hugh Keeling, the Chief Engineer of Imperial Delhi, left India, on retirement, in April. He said that it was expected that the Government of India would take up residence in the new Capital in the autumn of 1926.

Reuter reports from Constantinople that the Tribunal of Independence at Angora has sentenced to death an Armenian named Manoukian, who is accused of conspiring against the life of the Prime Minister, General Ismet Pasha, and other prominent persons.

The Air Ministry announces that as a result of an accident at Khaniutman, Iraq, to a Bristol Fighter of No. 6 Squadron, Mosul, on May 4, Lieutenant Gohan Ellesthorle Griffiths, Iraq Levies, was killed, and Flight Lieutenant Walter Archer Bouchier Savile, R.A.F., the pilot of the aircraft, being slightly injured.

The Morning Post Berlin correspondent reports that a school of mines on the German model has been established in Kabul under the direction of a German engineer, who acts as adviser to the Afghan Government in all that pertains to mining and to the working up of ore. The object is to prepare young Afghans between the ages of 17 and 30 to direct operations in mines, iron factories, and other works.

A dinner was given in Jerusalem on May 6, at the instance of Sir Henry Lunn, to the heads of the Oriental Churches, by the Anglo-Catholic pilgrimage. Among those present were the Armenian Patriarch, the Archbishop of Madeba (representing the Orthodox Patriarch), the Syrian Metropolitan, the Coptic and Abyssinian Abbots, and the Anglican Bishop, and their respective staffs, the Governor of Jerusalem, and representatives of the Church Missionary Society, and the London Jews' Society.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Tuesday Morning.

Handicapping Industry.

The more the provisions of the insurance scheme are considered the more surprising does it seem that Mr. Churchill should have incorporated in his Budget proposals which, whatever their intrinsic value, impose a marked burden on industry at a time when the business community is finding it increasingly difficult to meet foreign competition. Theoretically everything is in favour of the insurance scheme, and in a perfect world we should go far beyond it to an Elysian state of things, when no one would work for more than, say, fifteen to twenty years and the remainder of one's existence would be spent in playing games or criticising the Government on a well-earned youthful pension. But at the present time, unfortunately, trade is not in a position to carry any additional burdens; indeed, the first duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for years to come must be to find ways and means of economising, so as to be able to reduce the heavy burden of taxation. Were trade on the upgrade it would be possible to take a different view of the insurance scheme, which, as I have pointed out, is an essential measure of social reform. With things as they are, however, prudence would seem to dictate the postponement of part of the project for a year or two to allow commerce time to recover

The Zagreb Fair.

Our correspondent in Yugoslavia gives this week a most interesting account of the Zagreb Fair which has just terminated. I have frequently drawn attention to the point that the fairs which are held periodically afford one of the best means of entering the Balkan markets, and I am glad to see that British commerce was fairly well represented at Zagreb. Motors and motor cycles played a leading part in the fair, and it is evident that the market for these commodities in Yugoslavia is expanding. A number of British firms were represented in this section, and it is to be hoped that the example set by these firms will be followed elsewhere in the Balkans, where, broadly speaking, there is an increasing tendency to adopt motor traction. The development on a great scale of motor traffic in South East Europe is, of course, linked up with the problem of road development, and as great attention is now being paid to this matter it may be taken for granted that British motor car manufacturers who take the trouble to cater adequately for this market will find it an increasingly important outlet in future years.

The Drachma.

A very interesting review of the economic and financial conditions in Greece was given in the report of the general council of the National Bank of Greece, which was read by the Governor, M. Diomède, at the recent general meeting, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. It is pointed out that the fluctuations in the exchanges were less violent during the past year, and at the present time, indeed, the drachma make a better showing than any of the Balkan currencies, a sharp upward movement having ended in temporary stabilisation round about 260. As regards the outlook, it is emphasised that Greece is still in a period of transition, and that any premature artificial regulation would be vain because events would upset it, but that it is believed that the country is slowly moving towards natural economic conditions. In view of the constant improvement in the trade figures and in the yield for taxation, it may indeed confidently be asserted that a bright future lies before Greece, provided, of course, that there is continued freedom from external pre-occupations so that the country may be able to devote its energies solely to the much-needed work of development. Reference is made to the great benefit which Greece has derived from the success of the Refugee Loan, and the hope is expressed that the favourable impression created abroad regarding the country's economic strength will be lasting, so that it may be possible to resort to the international market in future to satisfy the needs of the country for the capital it may require. Stress is laid on the point that the carrying out of large works of public benefit in the capital and elsewhere is long overdue, and that under the pressure of the large increase in population these works cannot be much longer deferred. In this connection the draining of large tracts of fertile land, especially in Macedonia, is cited as a matter that will brook no delay. Projects of this kind will naturally involve a large capital outlay, and with a view to negotiations for the co-operation of foreign capital a syndicate of the chief Greek banks has been formed at the instance of the National Bank of Greece.

Conditions in Greece.

Mention is made in the report of an unusual expansion of business in Greece during the past year. Both in Athens itself and in the provinces, especially in Macedonia, it is stated that trade, industry, agriculture, and building showed great activity. The refugees, too, were beginning to make their tribute to production, and this factor, of course, will be of increasing importance in the future. The National Bank of Greece naturally played a very important rôle in the general development of commercial and industrial activity, and the figures of its balance-sheet reflect the marked improvement in Greece's economic position. The various classes of deposits show a total increase of 283,000,000 drachmæ. The bank's gross profits for the year amounted to 331,911,379 drachmæ, and the net profits were 66,710,168 drachmæ. The dividend was 1,650 drachmæ, which compares with 1,200 drachmæ in 1923, and 800 drachmæ in 1922. Thus in two years the distribution has been more than doubled.

The New Wembley.

With everything in its favour except the weather, which was of the type that has come to be particularly associated with Wembley, the British Empire Exhibition was formally opened by the King on Saturday in the presence of a crowd which suggested very forcibly that the new Wembley is not likely to lack for visitors! It only needs better climatic conditions for the exhibition this time to be the real success that it should be. The Near East's part in the exhibition will be dealt with in these columns in succeeding weeks in the form of a series of supplements.

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and I will only say now that the exhibits of Palestine, Cyprus, and the Sudan promise to be as unfailing centres of attraction as they were last year.

The Tobacco Exhibition.

The re-opening of Wembley may be said to have marked the commencement of the exhibition season which goes on practically to the end of November. Saturday saw the opening at Olympia of one of the most interesting of the minor exhibitions, the International Tobacco Trade Exhibition. This is a show with which the Near East as a whole is very closely concerned, as several of the countries are important tobacco growers, notably, of course, Greece and Bulgaria. Among the countries represented are Turkey, Egypt, Greece, and Czecho-Slovakia, and the exhibits as a whole, in particular the machinery, are most interesting.

Roumanian Agriculture.

A recent development in Roumania of special interest from the light it throws on the efforts the Government is now making to bring about an improvement in the economic situation is the decision to establish local Chambers of Agriculture. Our Bucharest Correspondent, who refers to this note in his letter this week, states that the Chambers will facilitate the distribution of seed and machinery to the farmers and will generally act as advisers to the Government as regards legislation and to the peasants as regards methods of cultivation. It is to be hoped that this step foreshadows a more liberal policy generally in economic matters, for it cannot be said that the path hitherto pursued by the Administration has been productive of a very rapid advance towards reconstruction. The Roumanian exchange rate sufficiently indicates the position. Of course, the country has been terribly handicapped by the adverse state of the communications arising from the war, but the conditions have been made much worse than they would have been by the whole host of restrictions and prohibitions which have been imposed in regard to exports and imports. One effect of the various restrictions has been to curtail the growing of wheat to such an extent that Roumania, which before the war was the granary of South-Eastern Europe, has found it necessary to import wheat to provide the necessary bread for her population. After this object-lesson it can well be understood that there are, as our Correspondent says, rumours that all restrictions on the grain trade are to be removed.

Roumania's Export Taxes.

Details of the return of Roumania's export taxes for 1924 and for the first two months of the present year, are now available. These taxes, which are payable in sterling, dollars, and French and Belgian francs, but which are entered in the State accounts in lei, amounted in 1923 to 4,182,448,590 lei, or £4,449,411 at the average exchange of the year. For 1924 when the taxes were levied on practically the same basis as in the last nine months of the previous year the yield was 5,112,053,982 lei, or £5,809,147 at the average exchange of 880 for sterling. This yield was above expectations in view of the poor Roumanian harvest, but what was lost on the smaller exports of cereals was presumably more than compensated for by the developing trade in oil, and no doubt the latter factor will make its influence felt even more strongly this year, though the return for the first two months is not very promising, the figures being 655,997,934 lei, as compared with 685,524,934 lei for the corresponding months of 1924. To Roumanian bondholders, it may be added, the yield of these taxes is a matter of very special concern as they form the service of Roumania's external loans. For the annual service of these loans rather under £1,600,000 is required, so that the yield from the taxes in 1924 was sufficient to cover this amount several times over.

The Ottoman Debt.

The various Governments concerned have now been informed by Professor Borel, who was appointed by the League of Nations as arbitrator in the re-apportionment of the Ottoman Debt among the Succession States of the former Turkish Empire, of his decisions in this matter. Among the most important are the rejection of the Turkish claim that the yield from the sale of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid's estates should not be included in computing Turkey's quota, the disallowal of the claim of Iraq and Palestine that the receipts of the Hejaz Railway should not be regarded as Ottoman revenues for the States traversed by that system, and the reduction of the original quota allocated to Transjordania. The changes introduced make Turkey's share 62.25, while Greece's percentage is 10.57, Syria being third with 8.15, and Yugoslavia fourth with 5.25. It is interesting to note that Professor Borel has made no recommendaion as regards the currency in which the Debt should be paid, and presumably the League itself will have to adjudicate on this very important question.

Rubber Rising.

I dealt at some length in this column last week with the exceedingly interesting position with regard to rubber. Developments since I wrote seem to call for some further comment. The main reason why hitherto the price of the commodity has failed to keep pace with the continued shrinkage of stocks was simply that American manufacturers were pursuing a hand-to-mouth policy, possibly being under the impression that once something like a real shortage was threatened the restriction scheme would be abandoned. It was simply because of this foolish policy that there was only an increase of 5 per cent. in the exportable quota on February 1, and now, immediately after a 10 per cent. increase has been made, be it noted, circumstances have compelled them to enter the market on a substantial scale, with the result that after a prolonged period of minor vacillations, we have seen rubber going up rapidly at over 1d. day, till on Saturday it reached 2s. 2d., while yesterday, helped by the announcement of the further large reduction in the London stocks, as well as by the continued buying, it touched 2s. 6d. No one, of course, looks for this process to go on indefinitely, and there will inevitably be set-backs in the price; but in view of all the circumstances it seems an eminently safe view to say that we are not likely to see rubber much, if at all, below 2s. this side of Christmas, and if that is probable it is certain that, between now and then, rubber will be considerably higher than it is at present, provided that nothing happens to upset the market, such as a rise in the Bank Rate.

India Navigation.

A further improvement is shown in the results of the India General Navigation and Railway Company for 1924. The net profits amounted to £80,731 as compared with £47,407 for 1923, and the disposable balance is £102,082 as against £56,719. It is proposed to place £40,987 to the reserves as against nil, to pay an ordinary dividend of 5 per cent. as compared with 4 per cent. for the two previous years, and to carry forward £20,809 as against £21,350.

Hambros Bank.

Very satisfactory results are shown in the report of Hambros Bank for the year ended March 31 last. The net profits amounted to £381,620 as compared with £301,969 for the previous year. It is proposed to place £150,000 to the contingency reserve as against £120,000, to allocate £50,000 as against nil to premises, to pay a further dividend of 12 per cent., making the distribution 18 per cent. as before, and to carry forward £87,090 as compared with £85,400. A notable feature of the bank's year was the floating of the Greek Refugee Loan which was such a remarkable success, being subscribed for many times over.

Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Finance Member of the India Council and chairman of Barclays Bank, entertained Sir Basil Blackett, Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council, at dinner at Brooks' Club on May 5. Among those present were:—Mr. Montague Norman, Governor of the Bank of England; Sir Otto Niemeyer, Controller of Finance at the Treasury; Sir Felix Schuster, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Malcolm Hogg, Sir Reginald Mant, Sir Louis Kershaw, Mr. C. H. Kisch, Sir Sidney Sitwell, and Mr. C. J. Mill

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 30.

A number of matters of financial and commercial interest which have been engaging the attention of the authorities and the public call for reference. Negotiations for a loan to Roumania from the United States have apparently reached an advanced stage, and delegates from America have been in Bucharest for some time in connection with the project. The sum involved is said to be 100 million dollars.

The strained relations between Roumania and Germany over the Reparations question have also engaged public attention. It now seems likely that some means will be found of arranging the existing differences without difficulties on either side.

Local Chambers of Agriculture.

A law was promulgated on April 13 providing for the founding of Chambers of Agriculture in the country districts, with a central administrative body called the Union of Agricultural Chambers, with its office in the capital. These Chambers are intended to promote the interests of all branches of farming and forestry. They will facilitate the distribution of seed and agricultural machinery to the peasant farmers, and will serve generally as advisory bodies both to the Government in matters of agricultural legislation and to the peasants in connection with their methods of cultivation. A grant of 20 million lei has been made to the Ministry of Agriculture for the expenses connected with the foundation and maintenance of these Chambers, and three years have been allowed for experience to show what definite sum must be added to the budget of the Ministry for this purpose. The Chambers will be composed of 11 of the local officials, including those connected with the farming and forestry branches, such as the Agricultural Counsellor and the veterinary expert, and 17 elected members.

It will be remembered that about two years ago the Liberal Government created the National Industrial Credit Bank with a capital of 500 million lei (with the participation of the State and of the Banca Nationala) for the purpose of affording financial assistance to industries by the grant of loans, etc. On account of the large capital at its disposal and its strong position with the backing of the National Bank, this institution is one of considerable importance in the national economy, and has no doubt rendered signal service to at least some of the industries. It therefore provides a good argument against those who reproach the present Minister of Finance with doing nothing to relieve the economic crisis through which the country is passing. The creation of the Agricultural Chambers provides a second argument, and however severely one may criticise the policy of the Liberal Government, however mistaken it may seem in some respects, it cannot be denied that the Government has succeeded in bringing about considerable improvement in the general economic situation. Unfortunately the policy of price restrictions and general interference with the free play of supply and demand has crippled production in many directions. An example of this is afforded by the present wheat shortage. Roumania, one of the principal wheat growing countries in Europe, is this year faced with the necessity of importing wheat to provide the necessary bread for her population. Since this unheard-of situation has arisen, rumours have been current that the Government intends at last to remove all restrictions on the price, sale, and export of grain of all kinds. It is, however, hard to believe that this is probable.

The Grain Trade

In this connection it is interesting to note the figures given by Professor Brancovice at the Congress of Cerealists which met in Bucharest this week to protest against the restrictions and prohibitions existing in connection with the grain trade. Before the war, he pointed out, the cereal production of the old Kingdom was 5,750,000 tons, of which 3,300,000, or about 60 per cent., was exported and this export of cereals represented about 72 per cent. of the total exports of the country. The cereal production of Greater Roumania is 9,745,000 tons, of which to-day 1,698,000 tons are exported, or 17½ per cent., which is about 34 per cent. of the total exports of Greater Roumania. Thus the export of cereals of Greater Roumania is 5 per cent. less than that of the old Kingdom before the war.

It will be interesting to see how far the present restrictions have affected the sowing of wheat this year. The weather has so far been very favourable to the spring sowings, but the winter crops have suffered considerably from the lack of rain in most districts.

THE ZAGREB SAMPLES FAIR.

(From our Correspondent in Yugoslavia.)

This year's Samples Fair in Zagreb, which was held from April 26 to May 4, differed in several ways from its predecessors. The attempted "little bit of everything" which characterised the first two fairs has yielded to an increased and greatly improved supply of those types of goods the demand for which has been proved on former occasions, with a corresponding disappearance of commodities which have failed to find favour. A very large amount of room was taken up this year by motor vehicles of all sorts. The Fiat Company alone occupied practically the whole of a large pavilion. The French Citroën ran them pretty close in the number of exhibits. This company provided a special attraction in the actual car in which the Sahara was first crossed by motor—a quaint sawn-off conveyance with caterpillar wheels. The car, conspicuous by its shape and realistically travel-stained condition, seemed to be a never-failing object of almost reverential curiosity.

British motor cars and cycles, etc., were also in evidence as at no previous Yugoslav Fair—Humber, B.S.A., Sunbeam, to mention those which I happened to see most prominently exhibited. The Liubliana agency for Ford and other American cars made a fine picturesque splash of red with its display of "Indians." And, judging by the tickets announcing the number of sales, there was scarcely a likely car that was not finding purchasers. Upon inquiry I was told that this prominence of motor-cars was due to the success which had attended the Motor Vehicles Exhibition at Zagreb in October last. The Associated British Manufacturers' pavilion showed nothing but listening-in apparatus and accessories for radio-installations generally. A new bell-foundry in Susak had sent up a peal of bronze bells; but it cannot fairly be said that either in tone or finish they could rival those sent up (as usual) from the Liubliana Machine Works and Foundry. After all, bell-founding is an old-established industry in Liubliana, and the experience of some three centuries has taught the Carniolian bell-founders the right composition of their metal and given their burnishers the necessary dexterity. Croatian peasant embroidery is now a recognised industry as well as the Bosnian, and there were more stalls filled with the beautiful work than on former occasions. At one stall one even had an opportunity of buying complete genuine peasant dresses, all resplendent in heavy embroidery—flowers, conventional patterns, and intricate drawn thread work.

A notable addition to the Fair was the Belgian Pavilion, filled with machinery. The two French pavilions were far more interesting than last year, when the mediocre quality of the French goods sent over for the Fair provoked adverse comment. This year there was a really beautiful display of characteristic French specialities—dress goods, tapestries, *articles de Paris*, jewellery—for a moment recalling the window-dressing of Paris and London shops. The Czecho-Slovak pavilion, which had been almost deserted last year, was full again this time.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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I counted eight British firms in the catalogue; but they were mostly represented by their local agents. The goods exhibited were mostly machinery and motor vehicles.

There was a notable falling-off in the number of small exhibitors; stalls such as those of the Bosnian filagree makers seemed to be doing little business. Doubtless bad weather was partly responsible for this on the particular day of my visit: but I was officially assured that whereas a satisfactory amount of "serious" business was being transacted it had been a bad Fair for dealers in miscellaneous trifles which visitors buy for presents or keepsakes.

To one who has been a regular visitor to Yugoslav Fairs hitherto, it was very interesting to note the progress and development made in individual trades in the country. To quote but one instance. At the last Liubliana Fair, the firm of boat-builders showed with pride a dinghy, built in "Thames style." And here, this year they were showing the first racing skiffs built in Yugoslavia. I cannot profess to be able to adjudicate upon the absolute merits of the craft; but the mere fact that they were there and of native make was a mark of progress. One of my own little purchases was a box of Karlsbad plums —native manufacture—which seemed to me almost up to pre-war standard.

Visitors to the fair incidentally had a welcome opportunity of observing that Zagreb has at last rid itself of the reproach of having not one really good hotel. Even Sarajevo was better off; Belgrade, of course, and Dubrovnik and Liubliana might be said to luxuriate in reasonably good hotels! But now Zagreb has fully reasserted herself. The new Hotel Esplanade is not enormous; but with its 250 bedrooms it suffices amply for the present. It is a model of modern appliances and good taste in decoration, and at the moment it is probably one of the most up-to-date hotels in Central Europe. Prices are reasonable too, and one of the main obstacles to a really enjoyable visit—for the average traveller and tourist—to Zagreb has been abolished.

The Liubliana Fair will be held at the beginning of autumn as usual. The date agreed upon for this year is August 29 to September 8.

The *Central European Observer* states that owing to differences between the growers and the sugar factories the area under sugar-beet in Yugoslavia will this year not exceed 10,000 hectares (about 25,000 acres) and may even be considerably less. In 1923 some 28,000 hectares and last year 55,000 hectares were under cultivation.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51.

PALESTINE.
Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Road, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostovoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale, Pera.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

An Italo-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce is to be established in Rome.

It is stated that the area under rice cultivation in Egypt this year will not exceed 50,000 feddans.

A company has been formed in Roumania for the exhibition of educational films in schools.

Syria's imports of cotton textiles in 1924 amounted to 5,739,230 kilos, of the value of £1,170,832.

Flax seed and flax machinery have been exempted from Customs duties in Iraq for a period of five years.

The Palestine Government announces that it is prepared to receive applications for schemes to exploit the possibilities of the Dead Sea.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for April was 22,140 tons.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture proposes to engage an American expert to assist in the improvement of tobacco growing in Egypt.

The Czecho-Slovakian Government has ordered a reduction of the Civil Services by 2,303 employees, representing 10 per cent. of the total.

The International Railway Conference at Athens has decided to reduce the time taken by the Orient Express between Paris and Athens by 14 hours (says a Reuter message).

The Roumanian Minister of Finance announces that all sums still owing to Government contractors from past financial years will be paid in the course of this year.

The Roumanian Ministry of Finance has drafted a measure providing for the consolidation of the Roumanian Treasury Bonds in Italy (says a Reuter message). The value of these bonds is about 80,000,000 lire.

The Danubian Sample Fair is to be held at Bratislava from August 23 to September 2, and it has been decided to hold in conjunction with this year's Fair a Garden Exhibition. The latter is to contain exhibits of fresh fruits, flowers, vegetables, seeds, and preserved fruits and vegetables.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has just issued an attractive illustrated booklet devoted to holiday tours in Canada. The tours have been carefully compiled to include just that amount of travel, leisure, sightseeing, and novelty that goes to make an ideal holiday, and can be modified or extended to suit each individual traveller's wishes. The booklet may be obtained on application to the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62-65 Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

A Greek mining engineer established in Corfu has forwarded particulars of certain lithographic stone quarries of recent discovery. These particulars can be consulted in the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1, by British firms interested with a view either to purchasing supplies of the stone or of investing capital in the company now formed to exploit the quarries in question.

The British Acting Consul-General at Tunis reports that since February, when grave fears were expressed as to the possible failure of the crops in Tunisia, through heavy rainfall over almost the whole of the country at the end of March and the beginning of April, the condition of the crops has improved considerably. Given favourable weather until the end of May, the harvest should be excellent.

Replying in Parliament last week to Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Guinness said that His Majesty's Government and the Commonwealth of Australia had agreed to accept repayment of the amounts of £2,200,000 and £120,000 due to them respectively under the Roumanian Relief Bonds, which matured on January 1, 1925, by capital instalments spread over a period of fifteen years commencing in 1930, with interest as from January 1, 1925, on the amount from time to time outstanding.

Reuter's Agency learns that an agreement has just been concluded between Vickers, Ltd., and the Soviet Government for the erection of an oil "cracking" factory at Baku for converting mazout, thick oil in its natural state, into benzine by a thermal process. While a certain amount of oil refining has already been carried out at Baku, it is believed that this is the first time that a factory for oil "cracking" has been set up there.

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., announce that they have received an order from the Salt Union, Ltd., Winsford, Cheshire, for a sectional pontoon type of floating dock capable of lifting small vessels up to 300 tons displacement. The pumping installation consists of one centrifugal pump electrically driven, current being supplied from the shore for the pumping and lighting of the dock. The dock will be erected in an arm of the river Weaver, near Winsford, and will be built under the supervision of Messrs. Roscoe and Little, Consulting Engineers to the Salt Union, Ltd.

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Near East Markets.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ

The Monthly Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended April 15, gives the following particulars:—

During the calendar months of March the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded at Hinaidi were 80.3 deg. F. and 51.6 deg. F. as compared with averages of 72.8 deg. F. and 49.6 deg. F. for the same months over a period of 36 years. The relative humidity was 72 per cent. as compared with an average of 69 per cent. The rainfall recorded was 0.37 in. as compared with an average precipitation for this month of 1.23 in. bringing the total season's rainfall to end of March to 4.30 in. as compared with an average of 5.75 in. The season was characterised by a very sudden change from extremely cold weather to unseasonable heat accompanied by dry weather. This had the result of prematurely hastening the maturing of cereals. The hot spell fortunately abated however before the conclusion of the period under report and more normal conditions were experienced.

The position with regard to winter cereals is very serious. Only one rain of importance fell in the Northern area and this was so torrential in nature that it did not sink into the ground but rushed from the hill sides and found its way down the watercourses which were flooded in a manner never previously known; and considerable damage was done to bridges and roads. The immediate effect on the crop was good, but naturally the bulk of the rain was lost, and by the end of the season under report the winter cereals were again in great need of rain; the position in the Northern areas is therefore very acute. Wheat is very backward and has made little vegetative growth before flowering; barley is only slightly better, and unless rains fall at an early date the harvest will be disastrously small. Middle Iraq is in better condition so far as irrigated areas are concerned but the "daim" or rain-fed areas are reported as failures. Lower Iraq reports a light and backward crop, but owing to the onset of cooler weather the prospects are slightly improved.

The question of locusts is always of great importance in any consideration of the harvest of winter crops. In normal years the cultivators in districts not actually infested with eggs, rely on getting their crop harvested before the locusts are on the wing. This year owing to the backward condition of crops this will be impossible. The knowledge of this has caused considerable uneasiness in the Mosul Liwah which is chiefly affected, and combined with the other causes enumerated above has resulted in what are practically famine prices for cereals in the Liwah. Wheat has risen to Rs. 500 a ton and barley to Rs. 480 a ton. The reserves in the district are inconsiderable after a series of bad harvests and a long period of high prices. An immediate rainfall would benefit the situation but at best it is feared that there will be great shortage of grain in this area.

The anti-locust campaign has been prosecuted energetically. Egg buying continued up to the commencement of the period under report, but from the 17th onwards the hoppers started to hatch out.

Since then every effort has been made to turn out cultivators to deal with the young nymphs. By trenching and burying, by crude oil, and by nets vast numbers have been destroyed. It may be broadly stated that, in the actually cultivated areas and the immediate vicinity, the work has been successful. The danger now lies in the more sparsely inhabited desert lands, particularly in the Jesireh West of the Tigris in the Mosul Liwah. Here the population is largely pastoral. In a number of cases such crops as exist have been left by the owners, who are away in the desert with their sheep. It is impossible to interest the scanty inhabitants in the work, as they have no cultivation of their own. It is equally impossible to obtain men from the more intensively cultivated areas, since the distances are too great. It is inevitable therefore that large swarms will feed themselves to the adult stage, and once on the wing, will be able to reach the cultivated areas. Fortunately, owing to the scarcity of desert grasses, the hatching swarms have suffered great mortality. The survivors will therefore be fewer than usual, but owing to the lateness of the winter crops, will do more damage than they otherwise would. The present object of the campaign is to concentrate on all swarms which, by accident or design have an ample supply of food-stuff before them.

The condition of live-stock throughout the country is improving slightly, but there is a continued absence of natural grazing. The rains which fell during the colder weather produced a scanty herbage which has been since very largely burnt up. Animals are being fed on green crops however.

The hides of sheep and cattle which died from exposure were flayed and dried and are now being sent down for export in great quantity. The mingling of this dead sheep wool with the normal export wool may adversely affect the price, but in the present state of the English wool market the reduction is not likely to be serious. The weakness of draft animals continues to be a problem of first agricultural importance, and all over the country cotton sowings are delayed and curtailed for this cause. Demands for seed are, however, still being received.

It is now possible to give some forecast of the probable effect of last season's cold weather on the present year's date-crop. In Basrah itself the only palms that have suffered are those in the exposed gardens on the desert border. These are not heavy yielders in any case, so that it is not anticipated that the Basrah crop will fall much below the average. In Lower Mesopotamia generally the same is true, but owing to the lesser density of the crop the damage is relatively higher, and a greater percentage of palms are affected. In the Baghdad area the crop will probably be light, and North of this the crop will be very seriously affected. In Kifri, palms are not dead but unlikely to bear any crop this year and such palms as exist North of this have for the most part been killed.

Citrous fruits in the Ba'qubah area are making a rapid recovery and prospects are fair. A very considerable number of trees have, however, been killed outright. Germination of summer crops so far sown including cotton has been good, due to the warm conditions prevailing, and the condition of the seedlings is promising.

The July, 1924—March, 1925 exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,104 tons and of barley 31,000 tons; total 32,104 tons as compared with 163,600 tons exported during the same period last year. The August, 1924—March, 1925 exports of dates from Iraq were 141,192 tons valued at Rs. 1,83,14,374 as compared with 121,655 tons valued at Rs. 1,54,37,845 for the corresponding season last year. The July, 1914—March, 1925 exports of wool from Iraq were 16,585 tons as compared with 4,678 tons exported during the same period last year.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN PALESTINE.

The market for agricultural implements in Palestine is affected by the two systems of agriculture which prevail in the country. One is that followed by the Arab peasants and nomadic Bedouin, who are extremely conservative and still practice the methods of farming which were used in Biblical times. The other is the modern agricultural system, which prevails chiefly among the Jewish and German colonies, of which over 100 exist in Palestine.

All classes of modern implements, including the most specialized types, are used in these colonies, which are run on up-to-date lines and are, consequently, undergoing changes leading to more intensive production (says an American Consular report). This policy, added to the enlargement of existing colonies and the creation of new ones, is the main feature of the present day colonisation work of the Zionists in Palestine. Studies of the agricultural possibilities of Palestine and work leading to the

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modernisation of agriculture are being carried on by the Agricultural Department of the Government of Palestine and also by the Zionists and other organisations. These efforts are not confined strictly to the Jewish element of the population, but attempts are being made to introduce modern methods among Arabs, with some success.

A favourable factor tending to the growing use of modern farming implements is the rapid increase in the number of young farmers with skilled knowledge of modern agriculture and the large number of skilled mechanics employed in the colonies. In addition, many of the farmers in these colonies, although they have no knowledge of mechanics, are yet able to master the intricacies of new machinery in a short time.

A primitive plough, consisting of a small share and a roughly cut wooden pole with a handle, is used by most Arabs. Cows, heifers, donkeys, and camels are hitched to this plough, which is well adapted to the rocky soil of the hilly districts, but in the plains or plateaus an implement is neeeded that will turn over the soil to a reasonable depth and cover firmly established weed growth. Comparative tests have shown that the yield of wheat crops is much greater after deep ploughing than when the primitive Arab methods are followed. In some districts Arab methods have been abandoned in favour of more advanced practices following the lead of the various colonies and the Department of Agriculture. Since the establishment of the Department in 1920 it has devoted considerable time to the encouragement of improved cultivation methods among the Arabs.

The introduction of light iron ploughs in Arab villages depends largely on price. Some light steel ploughs were recently sent to the Department of Agriculture by a British firm which were considered suitable for local use. The prices ranged from £3 to £4½, and weights from 64 to 85 lb. This does not indicate any marked preference for British implements on the part of the Government, but merely brings out the fact that the Government is anxious to introduce new implements, regardless of their origin.

The modern implements used in Palestine include many diversified types, because colonists are drawn from many different countries and their preferences are varied. Generally, local farmers prefer less expensive implements among the simpler types, while quality is the most important factor among the more complicated implements.

Windmills are not used to a great extent in Palestine and, generally, the winds are uncertain. The number of incubators and brooders is increasing and at present most of the agricultural settlers are well supplied. Some incubators were recently introduced in certain Arab villages, at the instigation of the local department of agriculture.

The number of tractors used in the country is relatively small, but an opportunity exists for a limited sale of them. The primitive ploughs used by the Arabs are made by local workshops, the metallic parts being imported chiefly from Germany.

All other implements are imported. Germany is the chief source of supply, followed by the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Czecho-Slovakia. The total annual imports of implements from all countries do not generally exceed £30,000. Germany is the leading source of supply for animal ploughs. Germany also leads in supplying mowers, reapers and binders, planters and seeders, threshers, farm pumps, and some small implements, and ranks second in tractors, tractor ploughs, and cultivators. The United Kingdom ranks first in supplying motor ploughs, and second in furnishing threshers, farm engines, and dairy equipment. France leads in supplying dairy implements and grain-milling machinery, and is third and fourth in supplying motor ploughs, animal ploughs, farm engines, and other implements. The United States has practically a monopoly in the sale of tractor ploughs and incubators and brooders.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	258-262
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	298-303
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.05-25.06½
Bomba	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 3/32 1-6
Brussels	Francs to £..... ...	25.22½	96.00-96.10
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,000-1,005
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5-1 3/32 1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	880.895
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.84 15/32-4 84 17/32
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	93 00-93.10
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163⅜-163⅞
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	118.15-118-20
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	655
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.40-34.45
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.15-25.30

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended May 9 states:—

The special feature of interest during the past week has been the continued weakness in the prices of American cotton. In a market already distrustful of the existing level of quotations, the further decline has exercised a very depressing influence, and the small amount of business, which has actually been put through, has been, almost without exception, by reason of special concessions in the matter of prices.

Yarn.—Spinners of American varieties are, generally speaking, in a pessimistic mood, though here and there purchases based on the lower level of values are noted. This applies more particularly to "extra hards" for the Near East. The off-take of Egyptian yarns has been fairly satisfactory, and prices for these are, as usual, much firmer than for American. A movement is again on foot to restrict working hours to 35 per week, and the result of the referendum is rather anxiously awaited.

Cloth.—Dullness has again prevailed throughout the week though with a somewhat better tendency at the close. It is quite evident that purchases of overseas buyers are limited to the requirements of the immediate future and that no business of any volume is likely to be forthcoming, until more confidence is felt in the present level of prices. India and China have done but little in the way of placing actual orders, but Egypt and the Levant have shown slightly more activity. The best market at the moment appears to be South America, though even here the volume of business gives little ground for satisfaction.

Raw Cotton.—Sharp fluctuations have been witnessed during the past few days, that of Thursday last being as much as 32 points. Final quotations show a drop of 36 points on the week. The amount of business done does not unfortunately represent the extent to which cotton has gone into consumption, as many of the transactions are said to have been between dealers themselves. No doubt the decline in prices is to be explained to an appreciable extent by the better news from the American cotton belt and the reduced takings of spinners in America, whose consumption is said to show a considerable decline.

It is interesting to note that shipments of American cotton to this country show an increase of 848,000 bales as compared with the same period of 1924.

Egyptian quotations show a rise of 170 points on the week, due in a large measure to the less favourable reports regarding the development of the new crop.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 12.62; Egyption Fully Good Fair, 32.55.

An extensive programme of road construction is being carried out in Bessarabia.

The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta have issued a revised scale of charges, in force as from April 1 last.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during February amounted to 31,619 oz., valued at Rs. 18,33,848.

The Roumanian Government has decided to reduce the tax on the export of petroleum from 6,000 lei to 1,000 lei per wagon on light oils and from 10,000 lei to 5,000 lei on heavy oils.

Captain E. C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., General Manager, Sudan Government Railways and Steamers, has been appointed Controller, Sudan Government London Office.

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Company Meetings.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

Economic Development of Greece.

The Refugee Loan.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Greece was held on March 30 at the head office of the bank, Athens, Greece.

The Governor (M. A. N. Diomede) read on behalf of the general council of the bank the report for 1924, some extracts from which are given below:—

The past year was a year of relative financial smoothness. Such upheavals as occurred were less violent than in the recent past: the drachma offered an example of greater power of resistance, and for the greater part of the year it maintained a more or less steady rate. This steadiness gave rise to faith and confidence in the future, and these elements, more than anything, gave an impulse in the direction of an increase in business in all branches of productive work. The movement in the bank's business affords a faithful picture of this fact.

What distinguished the year 1924 from recent years is the fact that no recourse was had to increasing the circulation with the object of assisting the Public Treasury. Indeed, the limits of circulation were even reduced, for a regular extinction of 128,500,000 drachmæ was effected in accordance with the respective laws. Thus, whereas the maximum circulation for account of the bank was in 1923 3,523,405,000 drachmæ, it was, in 1924, 3,394,905,000 drachmæ, or less by 128,500,000 drachmæ.

An impartial observer of the facts dealing with our circulation must admit that matters connected therewith were prudently handled. The needs of the State and of society were many, urgent, and often unavoidable. Nor should one forget that the whole country is just recovering from a tragic crisis, which still continues profoundly to influence its fate. Quite justifiable demands were put forward in numbers, and the situation was often stringent. It was, however, thought better to proceed deliberately both in granting financial assistance to whole groups of the population and in the carrying out of works neither the ability nor the urgency of which could be disputed. And the task was not always easy to adapt the grants demanded to the monetary supplies which the country could provide from its own resources without having recourse to fresh issues for account of the Government, which might have caused fresh disturbance in the value of the drachma.

During the past year the fluctuations of prices of foreign exchange were less violent than during the past. The highest point touched by the pound sterling was Drs. 298, and the dollar Drs. 69.90—this being during the first ten days of March. In view, however, of the fact that at that time the rate of the pound sterling in dollars was only 4.28, the rate of the pound sterling if it bore the same relation to the dollar as it does to-day (4.78) would have been Drs. 335.

The pound steadily fell from the end of March until the beginning of May, when foreign exchange rates fell to the lowest point they reached during the year—*i.e.*, 202 per pound sterling and 46.07 per dollar. A gradual but slight reaction then took place and rates again reached a higher point.

An examination of the exchange phenomena of the years 1923 and 1924 shows that up to the month of March in each of the two years the trend of rates is clearly upwards. By exploiting this rise in rates, which was due to real causes, speculation forced prices up still higher. But, directly afterwards, a continuous decline takes place: in 1923 this fall was rapid and ruinous, but in 1924 it was milder. From the month of June a period of relative calm supervenes and lasts for several months.

The time has not yet come to endeavour to give our monetary questions their final form. We are still in the period of transition with changing appearances of things. Neither private nor public economy can present a balance such as to allow the drachma to remain uninfluenced by one eventual manifestation or another. Any premature artificial regulation is not only a vain endeavour, because events will upset it, but it may even prove the starting point for fresh fluctuations, and consequently for fresh damage to the economic life of the country. There is, I think, only one thing that can be emphasised for the present, for it is a truth the ignoring of which would be dangerous. The fact that the drachma has for many years departed from gold parity has created a real situation. The measure of value is now different from that which was based on the old gold basis. Property has assimilated itself to this new valuation, and it is this valuation which is now employed in calculations and business provision.

Equilibrium has certainly not yet been attained in our public economy, nor can any Contintental State boast of having yet realised that end. But it must be acknowledged that the efforts made in that direction are both serious and intensive, and this is shown by the revenue from taxation, which increases by leaps and bounds from year to year. For example, this revenue amounted in 1922-23 to Drs.1,895,459,00, in 1923-24 to Drs.3,712,421,000, and is estimated for 1924-25 at Drs.4,800,000,000. The Government has not had recourse to fresh issues of paper for nearly two years, and by the measures which are to be taken the floating debt will be so adjusted that no danger from that quarter shall threaten the public economy.

All evidence goes to prove beyond doubt that the country is at present passing through a period of increasing production of wealth, with the aid of the appetite for work displayed by the people, and the employment of those funds which time had accumulated, and which gradually are emerging from their hiding-places. This expansion of work and the creative impulse which is perceptible in our economic life, through the abundant offers of produce of various kinds, will prove the most effective means of bringing down the price of commodities, and when offers increase the purchasing power of the currency will automatically rise and the country will acquire a circulating medium at once more stable and more valuable.

Perhaps the most important event of the year was the favourable reception of the issue of the Refugee Loan, above all in London and in New York. The realisation of this loan truly marked the commencement of a new period for Greek credit, after a long period of decay. The boycott imposed by foreign markets was raised, and it may now be said that foreign markets are open to Greek demands. From year to year Greek stock shows a continued appreciation. The 5 per cent. securities, which in 1922 fluctuated at rates between £40 and £45, rose to £50 to £55 in 1923, and in 1924 they reached £65. This manifest and steady advance from year to year was an expression of the confidence of the London money market in the Greek economic factor. This favourable view was reinforced by the moral factor of the League of Nations, and by the willing disposition of official circles in England, and resulted in the success of the Refugee Loan. I consider it my duty here to express my gratitude to Sir Arthur Salter, the financial representative of Great Britain at the League of Nations, for the wonderful zeal and devotion with which he laboured for the realisation of the idea of material salvation of the refugees; and to Mr. N. Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, who handled our questions with those wide views which distinguish the eminent men of England, as well as to Sir Eric Hambro, who devoted himself with the whole force of his energy, and the old traditions of a friend of Greece, to the realisation of the loan.

The great benefit which our country derives from the success of this loan, independently of the direct advantage contributed by the contribution of £10,000,000 to the economy of the country, is the fact that we gave an occasion for our economic affairs to be more closely studied and for deep-rooted prejudices to be removed. This study was clearly favourable to us, and the result was that the interest was aroused of circles which never before had concerned themselves with Greek affairs. In this way a larger market for Greek stock was created and we have every reason to hope that, in spite of the mistrust of many, if we continue properly to cultivate this fertile soil, the favourable impression regarding our economic strength will be lasting, and we shall thus be able to resort to that international market in future in order to satisfy the needs of the country for the capital it may require.

With a view to the economic facilitation of the realisation of larger works of public benefit, we recommend the formation of a syndicate with the chief Greek banks. This association is in the provisional form of a syndicate, which is destined to develop gradually into a general association aiming at the concentration of Greek banking forces in one organisation, in order that the activities of all together may be condensed and that their efforts shall not be wasted in isolated action usually condemned to failure. Everything leads to the conviction that the long-felt need of large works of public benefit, both in the capital and elsewhere, have become overdue, and that under the pressure of the large increase of population the execution of these works cannot be much deferred. Especially in Macedonia, the draining of large tracts of fertile land has become a question admitting of no delay both for the purpose of settling refugees and for handing over to cultivation rich soil so that production may correspond with the continually rising level of popular consumption.

But the realisation of even a restricted programme of works will require large capital, a great portion of which cannot be found in the country, and in order to deal with foreign capitalists, who will naturally offer their money at a profit, the syndicate will be required to present a united front on the part of Greek capital, and to negotiate co-operatively with foreign capital under terms which will best serve the interests of the country.

During the past year business showed an unusual expansion. In all branches of productive activity the capital engaged presents an important increase. Trade, industry, agriculture, building, all showed great activity, both in the capital and in the provinces, and especially in Macedonia. The refugees, who constituted until quite recently a heavy burden, are beginning a transformation into an active element of production and are displaying zeal and activity in that sphere. The business of the bank was increased by the concerns of the refugees, which it undertook at the request of the Government and under guarantee of the State in the conviction that its economic support would effectively serve the interests of both the new population and the public tranquillity. The agrarian population temporarily or permanently settled on the land received Drs.105,000,000 in agrarian loans, the service of which was paid without fail, and which tangibly assisted production. Refugee petty trades were organised in small associations and absorbed Drs.31,000,000, and they are being rapidly concentrated in larger associations, the object of which is the creation of industrial organisations, such as, chiefly, the carpet-weaving industry, which we considered especially desirable to encourage.

The bank followed closely the wider movement of business, no branch of which was deprived of its assistance. During the year under review a total capital of Drs.4,362,605,000 was engaged, as compared with Drs.2,748,068,000 in the foregoing year. The increase of Drs.1,614,519,000 is equivalent to 58.7 per cent.

The profits of the bank arising from the business of the year under review were considerably higher than during the previous year.

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On the other hand, expenses were also considerably higher, both on account of the great extension of business and owing to the continuous increase in the cost of living throughout the year.

The gross profits of the year 1924 amounted to Drs. 331,911,379, against Drs.278,870,749 in 1923, or an increase of Drs.53,040,530.

The net profits realised amount to Drs.66,710,168, which were disposed of as follows:—1. Dividend, Drs.36,565,255. 2. Added to reserves, Drs.30,000,000. 3. New, Drs.144,013.

The dividend accruing to shareholders, which in 1922 was Drs.800, rose to Drs.1,200 in 1923 and Drs.1,650 in 1924. This increase which doubled the income of the shareholder within two years, was entirely satisfactory, and a continually increasing amount of the profits realised by the bank in recent years has fallen to the shareholder. The proportion of dividend to profits, gross and net, since 1921 is incessantly increasing.

It would be a grave error if, during the period when profits are swollen owing both to the higher returns of business on account of the rapid economic development of the country, and to the fall in value of the drachmæ, the management were to omit to strengthen first of all the institution entrusted to its care on its financial side. Only thus will the whole country be able to look to the bank with absolute confidence in days when, it may be, leaner days reduce the abundance of profits.

The report was unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

INDIA GENERAL NAVIGATION.

The report of the directors of the India General Navigation Railway Company, Ltd., for 1924 states that a satisfactory improvement in results continued to be shown, and after providing for all charges, including depreciation and income tax, there was a net profit of £80,731. Adding the balance of £21,351 brought in, the total for disposal is £102,082. Transfers have been made to the debenture sinking fund of £3,500, to the general reserve of £20,113, and to the insurance reserve of £20,875, and it is recommended that dividends be declared on the preference shares of 5 per cent., free of tax, and on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., free of tax, leaving to be carried forward £20,809. Interim dividends of 2½ per cent. on the preference shares and of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares have already been paid, the final distributions will be 2½ per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively. The fleet found adequate employment throughout the year, and practically the whole of the increase was earned in the first half. The second half, however, maintained the high level of earnings established in the corresponding period of 1923. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., May 26, 11.30 a.m.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at March 31, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department. Liabilities:—Share capital, £E2,925,000 (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each); reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E15,399,520; Egyptian Government, £E20,211,220; Sudan Government, £E344,158; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,605,614; bankers accounts, £E402,930; cheques and bills payable, £E245,441; sundry other accounts, £E587,121—£E44,085,379. Assets:—Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E26,872,986; sundry securities, £E277,780; advances on merchandise, £E1,040,505; advances on securities, £E2,416,782; advances otherwise secured, £E400,294; sundry other advances, £E558,555; bills of exchange, £E3,888,758; local bills discounted, £E290,716; buildings and furniture, £E229,013; money at call and at short notice, £E1,374,750; bankers accounts £E4,580,260; sundry other accounts, £E86,625. Cash: notes, £E1,611,410; gold, £E32,393; silver, nickel, etc., £E304,534—£E2,068,346—£E44,085,379. Issue Department:—Notes issued, £E37,700,000—£E37,700,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E15,510,424—£E18,850,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,262; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £18,429,738—£E18,850,000—£E37,700,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold (see *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916).

SINAI MINING.

The net profit of the Sinai Mining Company for 1924, after providing for taxation, debenture interest, costs of reduction of capital, and maintenance, but subject to depreciation, was £58,485, plus £1,846 brought in, making £63,331. The arrears of dividends on certain preference shares and the interim dividend on the ordinary shares absorbed £16,793, and the directors recommend placing to reserve £35,000, a final dividend of 2½ per cent. (to which the debenture holders consent), making 7½ per cent., free of tax, carrying forward £5,288. The report states that the war damage claim is still unsettled. To provide additional and ample ore reserves, and with a view to the expansion of operations, the directors have made provisional arrangements under which rights to extensive and similar ore-bearing areas adjoining those held on lease by the company can be acquired on reasonable terms. Considerable progress has been made in connection with the restoration of the loading installation at Abu Zenima. The management hopes that shipments will be resumed before the end of July, and that market conditions, which are now favourable, will permit of increased sales and shipments over the autumn and winter months. Meeting, 10, Princes Street, S.W., May 20, 3 p.m.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN BULGARIA.

The monthly report of the Banque Nationale de Bulgarie contains an interesting article on tobacco production in Bulgaria, from which we quote the following:—

Tobacco is the most important Bulgarian crop, and occupies the first place in the country's exports. In 1924 the area under tobacco was 46,955 hectares, as compared with 56,473 in 1923 and 32,771 in 1922, and the production totalled 430,000 quintals as against 512,699 in 1923 and 264,193 in 1922.

At the present time tobacco growers form about a fifth of those engaged in agriculture, though before the Balkan War of 1912-13 they only represented about one-fiftieth. This change is due especially to the alterations of the territory and the population of Bulgaria after the Balkan War and the Great War, and to the fact that Bulgarian tobaccos are more and more sought after on the foreign markets. Bulgaria has lost the Dobruja, her granary, and has only received hilly country in the Rhodopes with the valley of the Arda river, which furnishes most of the Xanthi tobacco. The annexation of these new territories brought into the country, through the establishment of branches, several tobacco firms of Kavalla and Salonika with a personnel experienced in the trade.

Tobacco thrives almost everywhere in Bulgaria, but it is in the centre especially that the conditions are particularly favourable. In the Rhodopes there are districts well exposed to the sun where the crop does very well. The principal tobacco-growing regions are:—Doupnitza, Gorna-Djoumaia, Pazardjik, Plovdik, Stanimaka, Haskovo, Harmanli, and Kardjali.

NEW COMPANIES.

Jugo-Slave Travel Bureau.

The Jugo-Slave Travel Bureau has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £500 in £5 shares. The objects are to carry on in Great Britain and in Yugoslavia the businesses of tourist agents, etc. The registered office is at 11 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Jerusalem Brick and Tile.

The Jerusalem Brick and Tile Co., has been registered as a limited company with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares (3,500 6 per cent. cum "A" pref., 1,500 6 per cent. "B" pref., and 5,000 ord.), to acquire the business carried on by M. Steinberg at Motza, near Jerusalem, Palestine. The registered office is 1, Brunswick Street, Leeds.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The production of the Indo Burma Oilfields for March was 3,588 barrels, being 2,407 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,181 barrels from Padaukpin field.

The registered office of the Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt, Ltd., has been removed from 32 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, to 8 Crosby Square, E.C.3.

Mr. Charles Nicoll, general manager of the National Bank of India, Ltd., has been appointed a director of the bank.

The directors of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation propose a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 8 per cent. actual, making 12 per cent., less tax at 2s 3d in the £, payable on May 28.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, free of tax, for the half-year ended February 28, payable on June 2.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company and allied companies for April was 21,083 tons gross and the throughput of the refineries was 23,733 tons.

Dacia Romano.—The production for April was 612 tons. Four wells are producing, five are in drilling, and four are being fitted up.

The ordinary general meeting of the Gharbieh Land Company will be held at Cairo on May 30.

Hellenique de Vins et Spiritueux.—For the past year the gross profit amounted to 15,796,319 drachmæ, as compared with 16,602,288 drachmæ for 1923. The dividend is again 66.75 drachmæ.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended April 30, state: Since our last report the futures market has been rather heavy for Sakel and quiet but relatively firm for Ashmouni: the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 4.30 dols. down for May, 4.35 dols. down for July, 2.20 dols. down for November, 2.15 dols. down for January; Ashmouni, 1.25 dols. down for June, 1.15 dols. down for August, 1.10 dols. down for October.

There is again very little fresh to report. Sakel futures have been dull; this variety has been very much neglected of late by spinners and holders, in general having their cotton unhedged, are now becoming somewhat anxious. Should the present apathetic attitude of spinners continue we may expect to see some hedges put out against the remaining tenderable cotton, the consequence of which will be a further narrowing of the difference between old and new crop deliveries. Ashmounis have kept relatively firm; the demand from abroad is small but regular. New crop options have again attracted very little attention and such transactions as have been put through have been almost exclusively for account of speculators; spinners do not, for the moment, appear to be interested in new crop shipments. The week's receipts amount to Crs 5,774 against exports Crs 73,191: the stock stands at Crs 1,091,231.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has again been a very quiet market and there is no improvement in the demand from abroad. The market has only been open four days and sales amount to about 3700 B/s of which we estimate 1900 B/s Sakel, 2500 B/s Uppers, 100 B/s Zagora and 100 B/s Pilion and a few bales of Brown.

Sakellarides: The demand continues very poor but all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are inclined for medium and lower qualities and for Fully Good Fair and above they are rather dearer.

Ashmouni and Zagora: continue in fair request and have again attracted most attention from spinners. All styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are inclined to stiffen.

Brown: only a few bales have been done. Spot differences are without change.

Pilion: a moderate business has been done at about last week's parities.

White; is neglected and no business is reported. Spot differences are quoted somewhat dearer.

Crop 1925: Climatic conditions have been more settled during the past week. Sowing may now be considered as completed throughout the country. Germination on the whole has been about normal, and the extensive resowings in certain districts must be almost entirely attributed to the severe "soreshin" attack. The bad weather experienced early in the month has delayed the growth almost everywhere, naturally to varying extents; the position is, however, not serious in the Central and Southern Delta but in the Northern districts the delay is important and may appreciably affect the final results. Nile gauges now show more pronounced lower levels in comparison to those of a year ago; so far, however, no complaints about shortage of water have been reported.

The statistics of the overseas trade of the port of Karachi for the twelve months to March 31 show increases of Rs. 8,67 lakhs or 40 per cent. as regard imports, and of Rs. 15 lakhs or 38 per cent. as regards exports.

The Georgian Soviet Government is granting an Italo-Belgian company a 30-year concession for the search and exploitation of naphtha in three districts of the Shirak steppe in Georgia, the Government retaining 15 per cent. of the production and the right of buying half of the production at the London exchange price.

A Decision of the Roumanian Council of Ministers provides that all machine-made carpets with warp of cotton, jute, coconut fibre, or other textile materials, and all tapestries of that kind for covering furniture, carriages, and automobiles (Tariff No. 108), may be imported without restriction on payment of the Customs duty prescribed in the Tariff plus a luxury tax equal to twice the Customs duty. Carpets falling under Tariff Nos. 106 and 107—*i.e.*, Turkish, Persian, Indian, or other Oriental carpets made like Oriental carpets, originating in any country—are still prohibited to be imported. All machine-made carpets not falling under Tariff Nos. 106 and 107, as well as all kelims and woollen covers which arrived at the Customs House up to March 1, will be admitted on payment of the Customs duty plus a luxury tax of twice the Customs duty.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Brooms and Brushes.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for brooms, brass head 680, brooms, brass, handles 520, brushes, dandy 780, and brushes, horse, 2,760. May 22.

Melton for lining Tarboushes.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for melton, maroon, for lining tarboushes, 34 in. wide, 7,000 yards. May 28.

Webbing.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for webbing, flax and wool, 3 in. and 1¾ in. May 22.

Cast Iron Weights.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, invites tenders covering delivery to the Department's Stores in Egypt and including Customs due for the supply of 40,450 cast iron weights of various dimensions in accordance with specifications and drawings. Tenders are to be accompanied by two sample weights, one each of one oke and one rotl. June 13. (D.O.T.)

Flatform Weighing Machines and Counter Scales.—The Physical Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of the following:—29 Platform weighing machines. Capacity ranging from 250 kilos. to 500 kilos. 60 Counter scales fitted with oblong tin pan for goods and flat iron pan for weights. Capacity ranging from 5 kilos. to 25 kilos. 2 Counter scales fitted with large flat copper pan for goods, the side of the pan nearest the centre of the balance being turned up, and flat iron pan for weights. Capacity 25 kilos. 75 Beranger balances of a capacity ranging from 2 to 10 kilos. Tenders for the heavy weighing machinery, *i.e.*, platform weighing machines, are to include all expenses free into the Physical Department's Stores at No. 1 Sharia el Ensha, Cairo, and those for the light weighing machinery, *i.e.*, counter scales and Beranger balances, are to be c.i.f. Alexandria or Port Said. June 17. (D.O.T.)

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, May 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 20).

British India Line.—S.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 23); s.s. Domela for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 29).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Bari, Gruz, Flume, and Trieste (Swansea, May 19); s.s. Brescia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 30).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, May 29); s.s. Perim for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Johnstone Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Bralla (Liverpool, June 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, May 19).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA, May 20.	*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.
*CIRCASSIA, June 12.	*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*OLYMPIA, June 26.	*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
*CASTALIA, July 7.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.
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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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14 Branches.

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Central Office :
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Manager in London :—
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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSOM, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

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§DEVANHA	8,000	May 22	——	Colombo and Australia
*MANTUA	11,000	May 22	May 29	Straits, China, Japan
KAISAR-I-HIND	11,430	May 29	June 5	Bombay and Karachi
†KASHGAR	9,000	June 5	——	Straits, China, Japan
*NALDERA	16,000	June 5	June 12	Colombo and Australia
RANPURA	16,500	June 12	June 19	Bombay and Karachi

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§ Taking passengers for Port Sudan.

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‡DOMALA	8,441	May 16	May 29	Bombay and Karachi
§DURENDA	7,241	May 16	May 23	Madras and Calcutta
§HATARANA	7,523	June 6	June 20	Bombay and Karachi
MANELA	8,303	May 30	June 6	Col., Madras, Calcutta
*MADURA	8,075	May 30	June 12	East African Ports
‡DUMANA	8,600	June 13	June 20	Col., Madras, Calcutta
†MARGAA	8,258	June 27	July 10	Bombay and Karachi

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City of Venice	8,308	June 16	Bombay & Karachi
City of Cairo	7,882	June 23	Bombay & Karachi
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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia and India.

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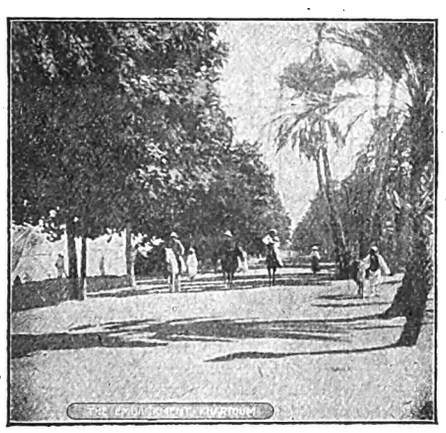

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 732.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Death of Lord Milner.

With the passing of Lord Milner British public life loses a man of high ideals and generous instincts, possessed of a penetrating intellect and of great dignity of character, independent in thought and actions, and perhaps the most selfless statesman that the country has ever known. He never spared himself in the service of the State; the furtherance of the interests of the Empire was always his goal, but he laboured for the satisfaction of knowing that the foundations would thereby be rendered more solid and more lasting, and was less concerned with the exterior of the edifice, which almost invariably determines the measure of popular praise or blame. To whatever office he was called—he sought none—his exceptional qualifications seemed to invest the post with an importance that it could scarcely have had in other hands. When his own judgment clashed, as it did in regard to South Africa, with the facile opinions of politicians who lacked his opportunities and his powers, a natural reserve and a dislike of public speaking prevented him from doing justice to his own point of view; but his readiness to assume responsibility in the course that he considered right remained unaffected. Political prejudice contrived to misrepresent his career in South Africa; it has never been able to belittle the great constructive work that he accomplished in placing that sub-continent on its feet again immediately after a destructive war. Tardy rehabilitation came when in the Great War he was selected for a post of responsibility and power for which he was pre-eminently equipped. Again, it was work that bulked little in the public eye, but was of the solid character of the real value of which his associates in office alone could be fully aware. When finally he resigned from the Cabinet, it was because, as a rigid constitutionalist, he would not be party to the attempt to attach corporate responsibility to that body for measures that it had not formally sanctioned.

Lord Milner and Egypt.

The foundation of Lord Milner's career was laid in Egypt, and to his interest in Near and Middle Eastern affairs THE NEAR EAST owes the interest that he took in this journal and the many kindly services rendered it. He will be remembered in connexion with Egypt for two publications that will always remain classics: "England in Egypt," and the Report of the Mission that bore his name. The latter effectually disposed of the legend of an Imperial Milner, in the aggressive sense of the adjective. If in regard to the grant of self-government to South Africa his worst fears were belied, it was due solely to the very significant developments in the characters of General Louis Botha and General Smuts that could not possibly have been foreseen in the years immediately following the Peace of Vereeniging. Lord Milner counselled a slower rate of constitutional progress, because he was anxious to eliminate the danger of separatism, from which the Union is not altogether free yet. In Egypt he knew that there could be no setting back of the clock and no beating of the Imperialistic drum. Again, with unerring instinct he saw the dangers ahead, and would have averted them by making the grant of independence coincide with the formal regulation of Great Britain's position. His advice was rejected; independence was granted, and the British position was left to be regulated at a later period. From this short-sighted policy has sprung all the subsequent trouble, which has abundantly justified Lord Milner's prescience.

Egypt and Jerabub.

Italy continues to press for a settlement of the Jerabub question in her favour, and the Egyptian Government with equal determination seeks to postpone the issue. The destiny of the Jerabub oasis may well prove one of those controversies which are invested with enormous importance for a period and thereafter are found to matter little, whichever way the verdict goes. There can, however, be no doubt as to the depth of feeling aroused in Egypt over Italy's action, and considerable sympathy must be felt with Ziwar Pasha's Government in its desire to avoid placing a useful weapon in the hands of its political opponents; for certainly the Wafdists will know how to make unscrupulous use for their own ends of any surrender of Egyptian territory, even though it be advantageous to Egypt in the long run. In matters of this sort, where no serious question of principle is involved, the first advice that would be tendered to Egypt would be to give way, rather than to afford Italy an opportunity, if she is so resolved, of making herself nasty over the subject. There is, however, no need for Great Britain to assume the rôle of Italy's advocate, with a view to persuading Egypt into acquiescence in the Italian demands. When the British Government had more responsibility in Cairo, there may have been good reasons for coming to an understanding with Italy on the subject of Jerabub. Now, as Mr. Baldwin would say, the boot is on the other leg. If Egypt wishes to carry out the Milner-Scialoja agreement, well and good. On the other hand, British interests do require at the present time that nothing should be done to weaken the Ziwar Government for the advantage of the Zaghloulists; there is no need for Great Britain to go out of her way to weight the scales against Egypt in regard to a matter which is capable of being represented as a fresh encroachment on Moslem territory (although the suggested compensation in the

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Sollum area should effectually dispose of the argument in serious Mohammedan circles). Yet a third point on which Egypt is inclined to dwell in regard to Jerabub is that Great Britain sets great store on retaining forces to protect Egypt, but appears deliberately to encourage Italy to establish herself nearer the Egyptian frontier than she need. This consideration may not carry much weight in European military circles; but it will be remembered that for a time at least the Senussi menace to Egypt during the War was taken quite seriously by the British authorities in Cairo.

Great Britain and the Dispute.

In any quarrel between Italy and Egypt, Great Britain has a duty to perform to the latter, even when she may not approve of the Egyptian attitude. It may be taken for granted that there were good and adequate reasons why in 1921 the British Government should consent to a rectification of Egypt's western frontier giving Jerabub to Italy. If the requirements that held good four years ago were made public now, it would be possible to decide whether they are equally cogent when Egypt has received her independence. It may be quite true that Egypt has never been in effective occupation of the Jerabub oasis; but it is at least quite as sound a point to urge that Italy is not entitled to possess the oasis merely because she wants it. She must establish a valid claim to it, which will have to be investigated more carefully than the claims which she advanced as the price for her entry in the War on the side of the Allies. Her contention, so far as it is known, is that Jerabub is the centre of a smuggling trade. That charge can be brought against any town or village near a frontier, and will no doubt apply with equal force to the next oasis farther east, if the Tripoli-Egypt boundary should be changed to incorporate Jerabub in Italian territory. Less than a hundred miles east of Jerabub is Siwa, and a recognised trade route from the latter oasis, passing through Jerabub, crosses 150 miles of Italian Cyrenaica before it joins the main southern route to Kufra. There is at least the same chance of any other spot being selected for the contraband trade of which Italy complains, and as there is clearly a limit to the extent to which Italy can move the frontier eastward, it would seem to be necessary to evolve a different solution of the smuggling problem. It would hardly be a worthy rôle on Great Britain's part to adopt an attitude of aloofness in the controversy between Italy and Egypt, merely because the latter is proving *difficile* in other directions.

Bulgaria's Difficulties.

While the Belgrade press is busy circulating statements to the effect that the Bulgarian Foreign Minister has been refused a French *visa* to his passport, M. Kalfoff has paid a visit to Paris and has since come to London. There are many reasons why he should want to come to the Western capitals at this time. Balkan prejudices are not going to die down hurriedly. Bulgaria with a total armed force—army, gendarmerie, and frontier guards of less than fifty thousand men is still conjured up as a bogey with great effect among themselves by her neighbours, who keep standing armies aggregating nearly half a million men. Only the Governments of Great Britain and France can be expected to bring an element of commonsense to bear upon the Balkan situation, and if they are to do this, they must shut their ears to fears and suspicions and judge the position for themselves. The one outstanding fact is that Bulgaria has very nearly fallen a victim to a Communist *coup d'état*. Whether the Bulgarian authorities have done their best or have been deliberately negligent, is a point which is not susceptible of proof; but there can be no question that, whether the Bulgarian army numbers thirty thousand or fifty thousand men, it can have no effect on the peace of Europe. What is of the utmost importance is that Bolshevism should not get any real footing west of Russia; and if the Bulgarian Government maintains that it could check the danger by which it is threatened with an army of fifty thousand men on a conscription basis, but cannot do it with a volunteer army of thirty thousand, then it should be allowed to have the former, and be given a chance of proving the truth of its contention.

Imperial Preference for Palestine.

One of the requests made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the occasion of his recent visit to Palestine was that the country should be allowed the benefit of Imperial preference in respect of goods imported into Great Britain. Mr. Amery pointed out that constitutional problems were involved, but he promised to have the question examined with a view to granting the concession, if possible. When the subject first came up for consideration a few years ago, the Law Officers of the Crown, it is understood, decided against preference for Palestine on constitutional grounds; but at least one distinguished lawyer, Sir John Simon, whose opinion has been taken, has decided that there can be no objection to the grant. An unprejudiced layman would argue on this wise: the British Empire is committed to the success of the Palestine experiment, and the sooner the country can stand on its own legs the better. If it is likely that this goal can be reached sooner by granting a preference to Palestinian products, such as wine and tobacco, imported into Great Britain, then by all means let the experiment be tried for a period, provided that the Dominions and Colonies raise no objections. The latter are hardly likely to be frightened by the prospect of Palestinian competition; and if foreign nations choose to point to the measure as the thin end of the wedge and proof positive of Great Britain's intention to annex the country or to maintain the mandate for ever—well, let them. The measure would bear no such interpretation; and, *pace* the *Morning Post*, if the British Empire is to be regulated on lines that must commend themselves to foreign nations, the first step to be taken will have to be its disintegration.

Cyprus Again.

Desire for a quiet life may prompt a few Englishmen to wonder why the British Government puts up with Greek agitation in Cyprus instead of handing over the island to Greece and leaving the Cypriots, in common parlance, to stew in their own juice. We can quite well conceive a set of circumstances in which Great Britain might decide that the time had come to hand over Cyprus; but it is to be hoped that the step will not be taken merely as a result of clamour or before there is conclusive proof that the interests of the Turkish minority on the island will not be prejudiced. For the pessimists it may be pointed out that the agitation for union with Greece will shortly be celebrating its jubilee. It first raised its head in 1878, when Sir Garnet Wolseley landed at Larnaca and was waited upon by a Greek deputation headed by the Greek Archbishop, who said: "We accept the change of Government inasmuch as we trust that Great Britain will help Cyprus, as it did the Ionian Islands, to be united with Mother Greece, with which it is nationally connected." An Archbishop still heads the agitation, and it would be of interest to know whether the spiritual progress of the Greek community and the standard of the priesthood under politically obsessed Archbishops has kept pace with the material progress of the island and its people. By March, 1879, the agitation had assumed a sufficiently concrete form to give rise to a debate in the House of Commons. Sir Garnet Wolseley was called up to report on the subject, and he declared in a dispatch that the complaints originated mostly from "a small and insignificant clique of foreigners who, seeking for notoriety, are prepared to make the most monstrous and unfounded charges against anyone, regardless of truth, as long as they secure what is to them a great distinction, namely, that of seeing their names quoted in print as the authority for statements which are made seriously and in good faith in Parliament by over-credulous members who have been deceived by the very circumstantiality introduced into these untruthful charges." Although the agitators are still for the most part foreigners, the new Governor, we are confident, would not pen such a dispatch to-day; but, unless he has qualified as a saint, he must have longed to relieve his feelings, as did his peppery predecessor, when, after the reading of the Proclamation a few weeks ago, a Greek

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Archbishop once again approached the British representative and handed in the stereotyped protest. What the agitating and agitated Archbishop does not realise, whether bathed in tears when addressing his own flock, or wreathed in smiles when welcoming a flock of tourists, is that so long as the agitation continues, it is impossible for the British Government to accede to the Greek wishes or to do its best for the island.

INDIA.

Summer Politics.

It looks almost as if the kindly autocracy at Delhi may be called on by and by to declare a close time for politics. Until recently such an institution existed by tacit consent, for the period intervening between the budget and the monsoon was devoted to repose and reflection, things which most politicians need rather badly, but this year the conferences have continued well into May, and we are not sure that the end has been reached even now. The latest report shows that the Extremists of the Bombay Deccan, or Maharashtra, as it apparently prefers to be called, have come into line with their fellows elsewhere in discarding Mr. Gandhi, and that they are now looking to Mr. Das to provide them with a concrete programme. Their choice is noteworthy, because formally Mr. Das is not in Indian politics, but is devoting himself to the concerns of his own province, and they might have been expected to turn to Mr. Nehru, the Extremist leader in the Legislative Assembly. The explanation is doubtless to be found in the fact that the former has lately given a sort of a lead, while the latter has not, and one of the encouraging features of the situation is that active politicians are showing an increasing desire to grapple with realities.

Economic Inquiries.

The newspaper reports of the two economic committees which are now at work add point to the criticisms we have offered on the piecemeal treatment of this question by the Government of India. The headings enable us, it is true, to keep the two committees apart; but they are travelling over the country talking about much the same topics, with the cart keeping just a little before the horse. The two points which strike us in the reports are the quantity of crude nonsense which is being unloaded, and the apparent tolerance of the men who have to listen to it. This last feature is regrettable, because the main value of the committees ought to be educative, and at present we fear they are doing more harm than good. Nearly every newspaper in the country reproduces ridiculous assertions, one after another, and, when nobody takes the trouble to contradict them, they get into ordinary people's minds, and will perhaps never be effectively dislodged. It is no good saying that the official Report will put matters right, because it will never be seen by the ordinary reader, and, as matters now stand, the committees, so far from being educative, must be regarded largely as organs for the dissemination of popular errors.

The Quest of Truth.

It is probably too late to do anything, so far as these particular committees are concerned, but, when the real economic inquiry starts, we hope arrangements will be made to provide it with a few expert cross-examiners, charged with the specific duty of sifting vague statements, and bringing the truth before the public as well as the tribunal. When the object of an inquiry is to ascertain matters of fact, it is a great mistake to rely on the judges alone to conduct the cross-examination, without which the facts will not appear in their true light. They have other things to do, and, if they are impartial, as they ought to be, their cross-examination will be all the less effective, while the gentle art of deflating windbags is an expert business, for which impartiality is not required. The world long ago recognised this diversity of function so far as disputes between individuals are concerned, and, if it takes advocates as well as judges to get at the facts of an assault, or a mortgage, or a breach of contract, the principle obviously applies to the more important task of establishing a firm basis of fact for national policy.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Silk and The Budget.

During these last hot days the Chancellor of the Exchequer has had an extremely warm time of it over the Budget proposals concerning artificial silk. Hardly a paper is defending him; the Beaverbrook Press, which at the time of the Westminster eletion could find no praise sufficient for him, is now full of his iniquitous follies; and even the *Morning Post*, of all unexpected things, is in this crisis failing him. The Liberals in their convention at Scarborough are wittily calling his scheme a "camisole Budget," and day and night do continually cry that the woman will have to pay more for her clothes.

Deputations, representing considerable textile interests in Lancashire, have patiently explained to Mr. Churchill how poor, and, in fact, impossible a compensation his proposed rebate would be for the excise; and Messrs. Courtauld, the largest manufacturers of artificial silk, have expounded—just as the Morris Car people expounded at the time of Mr. Snowden's removal of the McKenna Duties—how disastrously the Budget would affect a rising industry, how factories in contemplation would not be built, how people would be thrown out of employment, and so on. It is difficult not to be struck with the similarity of the complaints of the modern industrialists, upon which ever side of the fiscal controversy they may happen to be.

Whether, in face of all this opposition, Mr. Winston Churchill will have to draw in his puckish and courageous horns, it is hard to guess. His case has certainly had poor publicity. It does not seem to be generally known, when one reads of the sweeping assertion that "Lancashire" (a part of England which surely does not make any easier our arrangements, national or international) is solidly against him, that places like Leek and Macclesfield are whole-heartedly supporting him; and, of course, the House of Commons is with him.

Somehow, one finds it difficult to raise much enthusiasm over this question of silk stockings. Whatever material these silk stockings may be made of, it can hardly be denied that they are by way of being a luxury. And if they are a luxury, it is extravagant to argue, however many men and women be employed in their fashioning, that the trade is a national necessity. It is a distressing fact to notice that political observers judge an industry nowadays not by its quality but by the number of people it employs. Whether this is a sympton of democracy or of capitalism or merely of post-War fatigue I do not know.

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War Debts.

The International Financiers have spoken: France shall pay. The word has gone out from America that a prompt settlement of all unfunded war debts must be made—with the significant exception of Russia. Soviet Russia, not possessing a Government which is recognised by the United States, is not, it seems, to be pressed for payment.

Why this great move has been indulged in now it is difficult to determine, but one feels that it is the handiwork rather of New York than of Washington. That the reason given—the desire of Americans to make war more difficult by the extraction of war debts—is spurious is obvious; nor can one think it anything more than a coincidence that France is carrying out her operations in Morrocco by means of what may conceivably be American money. Rather does one think it a resolute attempt by the United States to get the financial system of the world more completely into her hands than ever, or, in more general language, the endeavour to make political formations conform to economic pressure. England, it seems, has already fallen to American influence by her return to the gold-standard; whether France and the rest of the Continental powers will be similarly forced remains to be seen.

Peeresses in the Lords.

Once again the Bill to permit Peeresses in their own right to take their seats in the House of Lords is being introduced. This Bill has been rejected once, largely owing to the gallant efforts of Lord Banbury. Those who wish the Peeresses to be there in their own right talk largely of "fair-play," "justice," "reason," and the rest of it, so that one at once becomes suspicious of a snag somewhere.

The truth is that there is no reason for or against this Bill. Normally speaking, one would say that it is totally unnecessary; but so much in this modern time is being done for the exceptional case—certainly the one is far more considered than the ninety-and-nine—that one would not be surprised to find the fundamental opposition of the Peers sicklied over with the cast of journalistic thought and so changed into theoretical support of the measure.

Whitehall and Westminster.

It is a common jest that Whitehall is full of Socialists, and, this being so, it is perhaps just as well that civil servants cannot easily stand for Parliament. A committee which has just reported on the eligibility of Crown servants as politicians really takes us no further than the practical difficulties of the situation. Of course, it is easy to say that no one who had served in one Governmental position could possibly wish to serve in another; but, all the same, one does occasionally hear rude sentiments expressed in Parliament by admirals on half-pay—an expression which is denied, for instance, to postmen in uniform.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

The Liberal Fund.

One must confess to a certain surprise at the fact that the Liberals were able to announce at Scarborough that £300,000 had already been contributed to their "fighting fund." For three months such an amount is really very good, although what proportion of it came from small contributions we have not yet been told. That proportion is, of course, the key to the whole position, for unless the million pounds comes from thousands and thousands of contributors, the cause of Liberalism will become but the cause of a handful of plutocrats. Apparently more could have been done had a business organiser been in charge of the fund, but in the way of such an appointment stands the Asquith-Lloyd George feud.

Lord Milner.

Scarcely a month seems to pass but we hear of the passing of some notable men: during the past week, Lord Milner and Sir Rider Haggard died. Of Lord Milner it is extremely difficult to form a just, or even a satisfactory estimate. Those who have written in most laudatory terms of him were those who knew him personally; those who have been more critical were those who did not enjoy his acquaintance but who judged him from afar, simply as a public man. Broadly speaking, one may say that the line that the latter have taken was that of Mr. Max Beerbohm in his recent cartoon; that of the former a passionate denial of its implication and a decided emphasis upon the merits of his character as of more significance that his apparent achievements. Perhaps the whole discrepancy arises from the difficulty with which one makes a synthesis of Lord Milner's mind, with its mixture of Imperialism and of Fabianism.

Sir Rider Haggard.

Of the novelist there can scarcely be two opinions, for the simple Englishman who wrote of magical distant lands went direct to the hearts of the young. There was no confusion, apparent or real, in the mind of Sir Rider Haggard; the romance of his imagination was matched with the romance of his mind which incessantly pleaded for the restoration in England of agriculture. He filled, and considerably filled, a place in his time; and even if his name is not for the future, it is sufficient that he earned and gained the gratitude of his generation. More than those who were boys last century will be lamenting that "the Haggards ride no more."

Art Galleries.

It is often pleasant, on these hot afternoons, to drop into an art gallery or two, and to spend a cool sequestered half-hour in the contemplation of what outside is not. If you go to the Leicester Galleries, for instance, you will find an exhibition, by Mr. W. S. Horton, called "Sun and Snow"—an effective and pleasing contrast. You may not care for the way in which the artist applies his pigment, you may think his representation of movement stilted and conventional, you may consider that in encompassing the rising and the shining of the sun at its height he is attempting something beyond his powers—but you will still find much to delight the eye and the sense. It is delicious, for instance, to come from London pavements to so beautiful a thing as "Snow in the Forest," or better still, "Winter Evening, Pontarlier."

Something much more seasonable and yet more lasting is to be found at the Independent Gallery, Grafton Street, W., where a collection of "a few masterpieces of French painting" has been arranged. Here you may take your choice from Ingres to Cézanne, and a delightful task it is. Even if you forget or do not know all about the influence that these nineteenth-century Frenchmen have had on contemporary British artists—an influence both mental and technical—you can revel in the joyous naïveté of men like Pissarro, Renoir, Sisley, and Van Gogh. Look at their orchards where apple trees are abloom, at the hedgerows and meadows in spring; or, if you do not so care for natural landscape, stand before Gauguin's still life and Cézanne's portraits. It is all very instructive, very entertaining. And to think that most of these men were once spurned by the discerning!

ALTER EGO.

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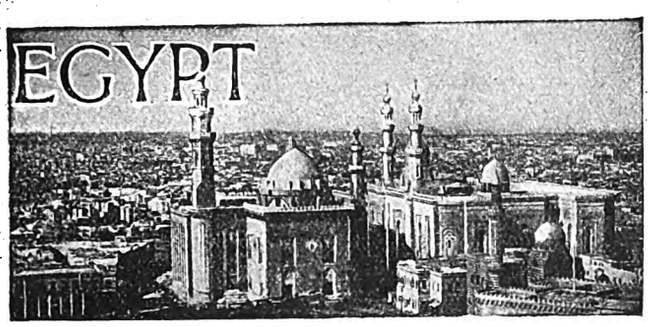
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents



Cairo, May 9.

A Change in the Cabinet.

The depressing effect of the Khamsin that reigned at the beginning of the week was relieved by a breeze in Ministerial circles that has resulted in a further change in the Cabinet. Yussef Cattawi Pasha has resigned, and his portfolio at the Ministry of Communications has been filled by Hilmy Issa Pasha, Under Secretary of State for the Interior. The latter secures promotion well-earned by the yeoman work he performed during the recent elections. The former retires with the conviction, which he obviously did not possess before, that in Egypt service as a member of the Cabinet entails not only the sacrifice of time and money but also the complete subservience of private actions and feelings to the political cause of the party.

The motive for Cattawi Pasha's retirement is very simple. Like many other Egyptians he, on the first day of Bairam, drove round to the houses of the Princes and Ministers and ex-Ministers to deposit his card. It seemed only natural to him that he should include Saad Zaghloul Pasha in his list amongst the ex-Premiers. And this act, which was purely one of private courtesy, would have passed unnoticed, had not the Wafd, driven by its present circumstances to snatch at any straw which might give it even a temporary fillip, announced through its organs that this visit had been inspired by the King, who was seeking a rapprochment with Zaghloul. This not unnaturally caused a flutter in the dovecotes of the Palace and the Cabinet. Cattawi Pasha was censured by his colleagues and taken to task by King Fuad for an action which, although quite innocently meant, had involved his sovereign, and the Pasha decided that the best means to give a lie to the story circulated by the Wafd was to hand in his resignation.

Admittedly in view of the intrigues and counter-intrigues that are daily and hourly going on between the various parties and in the heart of those parties themselves the visit of a member of the Cabinet to Zaghloul Pasha was, to say the least of it, indiscreet. But only in Egypt could such an action produce a Ministerial crisis, and the hubbub which it has caused and the sequel to which it has given rise are illustrative of the difficulty in this country of divorcing one's private affairs from one's official functions and the unstable nature of the political situation where no party, no man, is strong enough to stand even the breath of a suspicion, however obviously unfounded it may be, of holding intercourse with any of the opposing side.

Zaghloul Pasha's Visit to London.

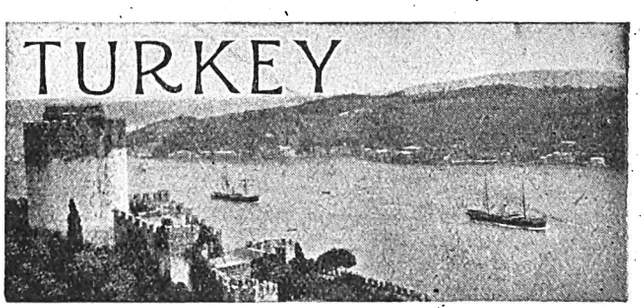
I mentioned that the Wafd strains at every opportunity to maintain itself before the public eye and stimulate its prestige. It recently circulated the news that Zaghloul Pasha had received a pressing invitation from friends in England. This was treated with derision by the non-Wafdist element and the Wafd his been compelled in self-defence to commit what in diplomatic circles is termed an indiscretion. It is now letting it be known that the source of the invitation, though intended for the time being originally to be kept private, is Sir George Lloyd, who having been offered the High Commissionership had intimated that he could give no reply until he had seen Zaghloul Pasha, and from whom—and not from the insignificant Labour members who are nowadays the supporters of the Wafd—Zaghloul Pasha received his invitation to go to London this summer! Comment on such a statement is superfluous, but that it should be circulated merely serves to show to what extremes the Wafd is being driven to maintain public interest in its activities and the credulous nature of the bulk of the population.

The Frontier Question.

The Tripoli frontier question, or rather, as it has now become, the Jerabub Oasis question, has made but little progress. On Wednesday the Cabinet considered for the first time the report presented to it by Shafik Pasha and the other officials, who were appointed at the beginning of April to examine the question; but no definite decision has been come to, and Italy is still patiently waiting for the appointment of the Egyptian plenipotentiaries.

Egyptian authorities on the subject maintain that Jerabub is essential to Egypt since it constitutes an ideal jumping-off ground for organised raids into Egyptian territory by armed cars belonging to any Power that possesses that oasis. The obvious answer to that is of course that, even if Jerabub remained in Egyptian hands, Italy, if at some later date she had hostile designs on Egypt, would merely need to seize the oasis in order to place Egypt in the dangerous situation which the Egyptian authorities fear would result from the acceptance of Italy's demands.

There is no doubt that in view of the great advantage immediately accruing from the possession of the heights dominating Sollum the Egyptian Government would do well to abandon its claims to Jerabub the possession of which is of only problematic value to her. Italy has made up her mind to have the oasis, to which she was entitled under the agreement come to between the British and Italian Governments while Egypt was still a Protectorate, and, if she finds the Egyptian Government inclined to adopt an obstructive or evasive attitude, it is highly probable that the compensation offered at Sollum may not turn out to be so advantageous as it was under the Milner-Scialoja agreement.



Constantinople, May 5.

Sheikh Said's Trial.

According to the latest reports from Diarbekir the judgment of Sheikh Said by the Tribunal of Independence

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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sitting in that town is to provide entertainment for Diarbekirians. The trial is to take place in the town's cinema and will, no doubt, constitute the most sensational programme yet presented to the public of Diarbekir. The above report states that even women are to be allowed admittance, but it makes no mention of the price of tickets. Already the inhabitants of Diarbekir have had the satisfaction of witnessing the punishment of certain subordinate leaders of the Kurdish revolution. These executions, which took place in the market square, appear —from photographs reproduced in the Constantinople Press—to be carried out somewhat primitively, as the gallows are substituted by a line of tripods and the trap-doors by tables, borrowed, presumably, from a neighbouring café. Whilst such public executions might appear to many to be slightly *déplacé*, they doubtless serve as an antidote to possible spectators having like tendencies to the punished objects of lawlessness.

A Turkish Floating Exhibition.

An indication of the growing Turkish enterprise is evident from the Minister of Commerce's proposal to fit up the ship "Kara Deniz" as a Turkish Floating Exhibition. About the end of July the "Kara Deniz," exhibiting cotton, wool, mohair, sultanas, figs, hempseed, tobacco, sesamum, mineral products and oriental articles, will visit England, France, Italy, Germany and afterwards, New York. Interpreters and officials competent to give exact and detailed information concerning all the products exhibited will accompany the floating exhibition, in which every Vilayet of Turkey is expected to be represented.

Mosul and Rumour.

The fact that the visit to Angora of Zekiai Bey, Turkish Ambassador in London, coincides with Sir Ronald Lindsay's visit to Smyrna, Konia, and Angora has given rise to much sepeculation and discussion in the local Press. This coincidence is interpreted as signifying a prearranged meeting of the two ambassadors for the purpose of commencing pourparlers regarding a direct settlement of the Mosul question between Great Britain and Turkey. Zekiai Bey, during his short sojourn in Constantinople after arriving from Switzerland, persistently denied all truth in the statements made by certain papers concerning *démarches* with the British Government which have since received confirmation here. The utter incompatibility of the local Press's interpretation of the above coincidence with their very recently published categoric assurances regarding the favourable decision of the Mosul Commission of Inquiry constitutes another instance of the versatility of the Constantinople Press. Reports are now prevalent that Zekiai Bey intends to resign his post as Ambassador in London.

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The Air Force and Navy.

Great efforts are now being made to augment the present small air force without having to incur further strain on the budget. A series of lotteries have been organised for this end and the subscription lists opened in all the principal towns of the country have met with remarkable success. In Adana alone the subscriptions have already attained the sum of twenty-seven thousand liras and individual donations of five thousand liras have been made. Great attention is being paid to the School of Aviation where foreign experts are reorganising the training. Ihsan Bey, the Minister of Marine, is coming to Constantinople on a tour of inspction, and it is said that Hamdi Bey, at present in London, is to discuss the possibility of engaging the services of a British admiral for the reorganisation of the Turkish Navy.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia April 25.

Slow Progress.

Island affairs have been moving with even more than the usual, characteristic slowness; and a Greek paper, reviewing the past year, remarked that 1924 and 1923 resembled each other as much as two drops of water. Well-considered schemes for development are much needed, but Cypriots are only very slowly learning how much the future or future prosperity, lies in their own hands.

It is much to be regretted that a project for the establishment of silk factories, which appeared likely to mature, after careful and exhaustive inquiries by Mr. Breton (of the important London firm of Messrs. Henckell, du Boisson and Co.), has been shipwrecked, owing apparently to opposition from quarters in which local interests, it was supposed, might be adversely affected. Had the project materialised, it should have led to a very important development of sericulture and greatly benefited the island.

The British Empire Exhibition.

Both the people and the Press unite in warmly approving of the participation of Cyprus in the Wembley Exhibition. The general conclusion of Cypriot visitors last year was that full justice was not done to island products in the Cyprus Pavilion of 1924. But all was done that the limited means at disposal allowed; and it must be confessed that any shortcomings were due in great measure to some backwardness on the part of merchants and exhibitors themselves in coming forward. Nevertheless, the Cyprus Pavilion attracted the attention of immense numbers of interested visitors. It may be confidently expected that the exhibits this year will be of still greater interest, and also that many more articles will be sent for sale than was the case last year.

A Tourist Trade.

Another matter which hangs fire is the promotion of a tourist agency, which might do a good deal for the island. There seemed some prospect last year that a movement would be made, and one leading paper, at least, vigorously advocated the scheme. But it would appear to have been dropped. There can hardly be a doubt that if the great attractions of Cyprus were properly advertised, large numbers of travellers would visit the island, and would bring no small profit, as in most European countries, in Egypt, and Palestine. Here again is a remarkable want of enterprise.

Island Needs.

The needs of the island remain unchanged. The most constant complaint is that so little has been done for agriculture; and as regards one of the principal problems in connection therewith there is certainly cause for the grumbling, which is so continuous. The question of artesian water supplies has not yet been set at rest. No positive assurance has been given that experiments hitherto carried out have been sufficient. If they have been exhaustive, let the matter be definitely explained and made public, so that agriculturists may know exactly how they stand, and complaints may cease, and attention be turned to other sources of supply, and schemes now in abeyance

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More water is, of course, the outstanding need for an island which lives by agriculture, and has not enough, and suffers seriously in years of drought. Amongst other complaints may be mentioned the want of better communication with the outer world, harbour development, and a return to a weekly mail service (it is now only tri-monthly).

IRAQ.

Baghdad, May 6.

High Commissioner's Tour.

The High Commissioner left Baghdad on April 18, on a visit to the northern provinces. In the Mosul vilayet a certain amount of unrest is making itself felt, as a not unnatural result of the inquiries of the Frontier Commission. The general feeling of uncertainty and instability, with its consequent lawlessness, is encouraged by vigorous Turkish propaganda, and aggravated by threatened famine owing to the poor rains of the spring, the ravages of locusts, and a general depletion of reserves and shortage of plough animals after the heavy losses caused by the severity of the winter.

Visit of British Ministers.

Mr. Amery and Sir Samuel Hoare left Baghdad with their staff on April 14, *en route* to Jerusalem. To the disappointment of local political circles they committed themselves to no statement of British policy in Iraq, and the results of their investigations are eagerly awaited. The Ministers were able during their short stay, thanks to the swiftness of air transit, to travel the length and breadth of Iraq, covering some 1,300 miles in all. The fear that this visit heralds a withdrawal of the British to Basrah, or even the complete evacuation advocated by certain sections of the English Press, is reflected in the vernacular papers here by articles as plaintively pro-British as at the time of the Treaty they were hostile to all outside interference. Support and assistance now take the place of oppression and tyranny as journalistic catch-words. On the other hand, some extremists affect to see in the Ministers' visit an attempt to grind "more" gold out of Iraq for the British Treasury.

Elections.

The elections for Parliament are now nearly completed, and it is generally expected that the Mejliss will meet in extraordinary session towards the end of this month.

Suleimaniyeh.

The situation in Kurdistan is less satisfactory than it was. Sheikh Mahmud is still at large, and his small forces are carrying on an active guerilla warfare up to the very outskirts of Suleimaniyeh. The troops there have been strengthened by the addition of some of the Levy Force, and the Iraqi commander has been superseded by a British officer.

King Faisal.

The King, accompanied by the Emir Ghazi, spent the first week in May in a motor tour, visiting Kerbela, Ukaidhr, Hillah and Diwaniyah.

Iraq Ministers at Basrah.

The Prime Minister (Yassin Pasha), with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Communications and Works, visited Basrah last month in order to inspect the British oil fields at Abadan, in connection with the recent grant of an oil concession to the Turkish Petroleum Company. Their journey gave rise to a rumour that the Ministers had gone to select sites for new Government buildings on the removal of the seat of government to Basrah! Yassin Pasha, in the course of a speech at a dinner given in his honour, accused the prosperous Basrawis of having no thought beyond dates, and appealed to them to pay more attention to the education of their children. "Basrah," he said, "insists on eight members of Parliament; yet in the higher classes of her schools the pupils number twelve."

Trans-Desert Route.

Another attack on a convoy of the Eastern Transport Company has been reported, this time only eight miles outside Baghdad. The robbers, who were armed with rifles, succeeded in looting the passengers (employees of the company) of money and property to the value of £140. No arrests have yet been made. The overturning of a car of the Nairn Transport Company, resulted in nothing worse than a broken nose for one lady passenger. The Iraq Government is taking steps to ensure than no cars shall be permitted to undertake the cross-desert journey unless they are in good mechanical condition, but a further precaution may be necessary that drivers are not overworked.

For greater security of the desert route it is proposed that the Iraq Government should establish a police post at Rutbah, roughly half-way between Baghdad and Damascus. If this is done, a modern first-class hotel will probably be established near by; this would be of the greatest value in minimising the discomforts of the long desert run, and thus attracting to Iraq more of the tourist trade in which she stands in need.

General

Saiyid Talib Pasha has returned to Iraq. He was greeted by a crowd of about three hundred people. Some nervousness as to the attitude he will take up is felt in political circles. The Babal Muadham, by which General Maude and his troops first entered Baghdad in 1917, is being demolished, partly because it was considered unsafe, and partly to improve the roadway for traffic.

PRAYERS AND PROPAGANDA IN CYPRUS.

Limassol, May 12.

To a Nicosia meeting the Orthodox Archbishop, with tears in his eyes, explained that the new Constitution was more illiberal than the old one. A vote was passed in favour of union with Greece and protesting against the new Constitution, especially the imposition on Cyprus of the tribute of £93,000, in spite of the fact that the Lausanne Treaty imposed no obligation in this respect on England.

Disappointment and despair prevail throughout the island. The Archbishop has ordered prayers in all the Greek churches for the union of Cyprus with Greece.

A party of 250 English visitors, including Bishops, priests and others have arrived in Cyprus and were welcomed most cordially by the Archbishop, Bishops, and Mayors, who explained to them the people's will for union with Greece. Towns were beflagged with Greek flags.—*Greek Press Bureau Telegram.*

[Reference is made in Notes of the Week to the above telegram which has reached us from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol.]

M. Sarraut, French Ambassador in Turkey, left Paris for Constantinople on May 11.

King Albert on May 12 received Wahda Pasha, the Egyptian Minister to Belgium.

The Greek National Assembly has passed, with few exceptions, the first 39 articles of the Constitution, and has begun the discussion on the provisional revision of the electoral register.

The annual subsidy of 75,000,000 leva (£114,500) granted by the Bulgarian State for housing has been reduced this year by 35,000,000, owing to expenses incurred through the recent disturbances.

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THE PALESTINE PAVILION AT WEMBLEY.

Mr. L. S. Amery on Palestine.

The Palestine Pavilion in its new garb for 1925 was formally inaugurated on May 12 by a luncheon given at the Wembley Garden Club, at which Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was present. Mr. Walter S. Cohen, Chairman of the London Committee of the Palestine Pavilion, and Honorary Secretary of the Economic Board for Palestine, presided, and among those present were: Lord Oranmore and Browne, Lt.-General Sir Henry McMahon, Sir Gilbert Clayton, Lt.-General Sir Travers Clarke, Sir A. Sharpe, Sir Francis Newton, Sir Adolph Tuck, Sir A. Prince, Sir Samuel Instone, Major-General L. Herbert, Lt.-Colonel H. V. de Satge, Mr. Raoul Foa, Mr. J. de Rothschild, Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Colonel S. L. Mandleberg, Lt.-Colonel J. H. Levey, Lt.-Colonel F. D. Samuel, Dr. G. Halpern, Major H. L. Nathan, Major R. T. Little, Major C. T. Lawrence, Major J. M. Pearson, Major J. A. Richmond, Captain E. F. C. Lane, Captain L. W. Charley, Captain H. C. Smart, and Messrs. A. I. Belisha, Montague Bell, W. Bevan, K. Burbridge, A. Caldecott, J. B. Cassels, Leonard Cohen, D. J. Davies, I. Davis, H. S. Goldsmith, E. R. Hallifax, R. L. N. Michell, Maurice Myers, A. F. Roberts, Sigmund Samuel, A. Sefi, R. H. Selbie, Digby Solomon, M. Stockdale, A. W. Tolmie, Boswell Tucker, F. A. M. Vincent and H. Viteles.

Mr. Amery, in thanking the guarantors for the assistance which had rendered possible the success that the committee had achieved in the Palestine Pavilion, said that he had returned from his visit to Palestine impressed by the beauty and interest of that country, by its economic possibilities, and by the admirable work which had been done there during the last five years by a devoted band of British officials working under a great administrator, Sir Herbert Samuel. All parts of the Empire were clamouring for more capital with which to develop their resources, and in most cases for more human capital, the most valuable of all. Palestine needed both capital and population. She was in a large measure under-populated, and, if her resources were fully developed, she could carry three or four times her present population. Both elements, Arab and Jewish, were essential to the development of the country, and both could co-operate effectively in its progress. The Arab was by nature intelligent and adaptable. In the course of his visit, he had been struck by the way in which the Arab was taking advantage, in the neighbourhood of Jewish colonies, of the lessons these could teach him, and was improving in agriculture from new ideas and new methods. The new order had given the Arab three very important advantages over his condition under the Turks: conscription had been done away with, health measures had enabled the Arab population to increase rapidly, and public security had been provided. In the last five years the Arabs in Palestine had increased by 80,000; this was a very important asset in the economic development of the country and a refutation of the charge that British policy in helping the development of the Jewish national home in Palestine had neglected the welfare and interests of the Arab population. The Jews could point to an immigration of 50,000 in the same period, and it was noticeable that they were supplying an agricultural population, which would produce the most useful of crops—children. Palestine, he believed, would thus get the population it needed. The line of the country's growth must be primarily agricultural. Zionism had rendered a great service by the introduction of an intensive system of agriculture. Cultivation of the land must rely mainly on crops of high value—oranges, wines, tobacco, silk, barley, and dried fruits.

One matter which the High Commissioner had raised in conversation with him was whether it would be possible to grant Imperial preference to Palestine. Many constitutional problems were involved, but he had promised to look into the matter with a desire to act in a direction which would be of help to the country. Meanwhile, he was glad to know that it had been possible to bring down the tithe from 12½ to 10 per cent. As for industrial development, there was no reason why there should not be built up gradually a considerable trade in salt, bricks, and other goods.

A problem that required attention was that of communications. The present shipping facilities were inadequate. The solution undoubtedly lay in the development of the natural harbour of Haifa, and he had been glad to be able, while in Palestine, to sanction a small improvement at Haifa. Haifa served not only Palestine, including the rich Jordan district and Transjordan, but was also the outlet for the great hinterland, and, looking ahead, perhaps fifteen years, they could count on railway communication with Iraq and Persia.

The one industry that Palestine had already to hand and might so easily develop was the important tourist industry, for quite apart from the attractions it held on grounds of religion, it must be remembered that it was a country of great natural beauty and of considerable archæological interest. Mr. Amery referred in particular to Amman, Jerash, with its miles and miles of columns, and other centres of Greek and Roman remains, but added that Palestine must provide better hotel facilities if it was to benefit to the full from the fertilising sediment that the tourist stream left behind it in the way of money. In conclusion, he emphasised again the good work that had been done in the country and the bright promise that was held out for the future.

In replying on behalf of the guarantors, Mr Raoul Foa, Chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, after thanking the Colonial Secretary for his presence on that occasion, endorsed what he had said about Palestine's being primarily an agricultural country. It was noticeable that already a very large proportion of the financial advances made had been repaid.

After a brief speech by Mr. Walter Cohen, thanking Mr. Amery for having accepted the invitation of the Pavilion Committee, the guests proceeded by Railodok cars to the Palestine Pavilion, where the exhibits were inspected, and the new design for the interior (a street in old Jerusalem—the work of Miss Braham) was much admired.

A full account of the Palestine Pavilion will be given in a later issue of THE NEAR EAST in the form of a Special Illustrated Section.

JEWISH COLOURS.

The King, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Fusiliers, has sanctioned the consecration and deposit of the Colours of the 38th, 39th, and 40th Battalions, Royal Fusiliers (Jewish Battalions), in the Great Synagogue, Duke Street, Aldgate, and the eventual transfer of the Colours of the 40th Battalion to Jerusalem. The date of the consecration ceremony has been fixed for Sunday, May 24, Empire Day, and it has been decided to march the Colours from the offices of the Zionist Organisation through the City of London to the synagogue.

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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.

HUSSEIN JAHID BEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your interesting article on the subject of the sentence passed by the Tribunal of Independence on Hussein Jahid Bey will win the concurrence of all fair-minded Westerners. May I, for too long, perhaps, a resident in Turkey, venture to suggest, however, that the Eastern view of the case has been over-looked?

All who know Jahid Bey recognize him to be an exceptionally cultivated and educated man and an unquestioned patriot. It must be acknowledged, however, that fate has not required of him the sacrifices supported by his fellows. Unfriendly persons might suggest that he has always known which side of his bread was buttered and has never let his "piece" fall butter downwards! He has been selected by Angora, I do not doubt, as a suitable example for all and sundry to note and remember. A case lies against him. Not one that would appeal to our sense of justice, perhaps, but fully comprehensible to an Italian Fascist; while Angora is several degrees East of Rome! You refer to Nasr-ed-Din, on whom be the Peace. He once cut off his beard (a shocking thing for a Moslem to do) and when asked for his reason replied: "A fly buzzed through my beard. Can I permit a right-of-way?" Jahid Bey buzzed too much and many flies were ready to follow him. His defence, from a Turkish point of view, was an affront to the Tribunal and, granted the hypothesis that such Tribunals are necessary at this time in Turkey (and who would dare to question their expediency as this early stage of Republican evolution?) his punishment is moderate and reasonable. Chorum was good enough, during the War, as a residence for many British civilian prisoners, and should be good enough for Jahid Bey. And "perpetual banishment" is only a relative term in Turkey and is not likely to exceed a year or two, if the prisoner really lets his heels cool. Finally, on the point of the fundamental justice of the court, I permit myself to quote your words:—

> "The unprejudiced visitor to Angora who is fortunate enough to meet Turkish Ministers and officials is left with no doubt as to the inherent superiority of the new régime over the old. Everywhere at the head of things one meets with clear views and good intentions; only when these have to be translated into action does the machinery reveal its weakness."

The intentions being good shows that the right people are in office. The execution of their plans is defective only because they lack a sufficient proportion of properly instructed subordinates. If Jahid Bey were a Minister, he, too, would suffer from the same handicap. His criticisms of the Ministers is therefore, misplaced. He should have remembered "not to shoot the pianists, for they are doing their best." For these reasons I respectfully submit that our Press is attaching too great an importance to the case, both in the interests of the sufferer and, which is more important, of a fuller understanding of Angora's many difficulties.—I am, etc., JENNAN.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The writer of the letter signed "Jusitia," in your issue of May 14, can hardly have weighed the meaning of the words, therein quoted from a Limassol telegram; and the analogy of a conquered Britain, which he attempts to draw in that connection, does not hold.

If Germany had conquered in the late war and had annexed Great Britain, all of us who remained in the country would ipso facto have acquired German nationality, whether we "accepted" it willingly or not, just as all Cypriots resident in Cyprus in November 1914 automatically acquired the right to British nationality in virtue of the Annexation Act. Germany, however, would certainly, (and rightly) not have allowed any United States citizen, who might have been here at the time or subsequently come over, to have any share in our government. That would constitute the true analogy since, as you yourself have pointed out, Hellenic subjects have necessarily at all times been foreigners in Cyprus—that island never having formed part of Greece.

I must confess that I am a little surprised to hear that so few native Cypriots are "politicians," but I honestly do not see how anyone can fairly cavil at the exclusion of the imported article from the administration of the Colony.—I am, etc., HARRY H. LAMB.

52, Morpeth Mansions, S.W.1., May 16.

SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I think the two letters in your issue of April 30, from Mr. J. D. Gleeson and Mr. J. Mahoney-Shealanlor, call for comment, if not for correction.

Let us take Mr. Gleeson's letter first. When he states that "All minorities in the Triune Kingdom enjoy full civic and political rights," he is merely reiterating a well-worn and vapid slogan, and to state this in connection with Yugoslavia makes it additionally ironical.

I wonder what the Montenegrins, Croats, and Slovenes would say if they were asked whether they were satisfied with their "full civic and political rights" under Serbian domination. I wonder what Stephen Raditch would say?

Secondly, to say that the political frontier incidents ceased when the Soviet envoy was expelled from Tirana is to imply unmerited culpability. The régime of Archbishop Fan Noli was not in any respect born of Bolshevist intrigue. As Mgr. Fan Noli told me himself, the prime object of the Revolution which established him at Tirana was the dispossession (with compensation) of the Beys. People are too fond of thinking that Agrarianism and Bolshevism are one and the same thing.

Bolshevism is peculiar to urban districts and industrialism. As the population of Albania is on the land, it is wholly wrong to stigmatise a movement which aimed at ending a state of despotic semi-feudalism, as Bolshevism.

Mr. Gleeson then goes on to say that since the return of Ahmed Bey relations between Yugoslavia and Albania have been cordial. The delightful naïveté of this remark will be appreciated by those who are acquainted with the circumstances of Ahmed Bey's return after six months' sojourn in Belgrade.

The incident of the St. Naum Monastery is a peculiarly unfortunate one for any Serbophil to quote. After this matter had been arbitrated at The Hague before a tribunal which has always been considered competent, and a decision favourable to Albania had been given, I think

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I am right in saying that the Serbs announced that they would take the matter further to the League of Nations, and if the League decided against them they would resign from the League. The fact that Ahmed Bey has now withdrawn the St. Naum question from the competency of the League of Nations is merely the fulfilment of a policy which every observer of Balkan events anticipated when Ahmed Bey came over the Serbian mountains last Christmas with a heavily armed following.

To pass on to the letter from Mr. J. Mahoney-Shealanlor, I should like to remark on his conjecture that the Memorandum of The Near and Middle East Association "might convey the impression to the countries concerned that influential British opinion is hostile to their *status quo*." I can assure this gentleman that whatever may be the impression amongst the masses in those countries, if indeed they have ever heard of this letter, the present Government at Belgrade and Tirana are fully aware that the Ahmed Bey régime meets with official British approval. In this connection it will be remembered that Ahmed Bey recently granted an oil concession to The Anglo Persian Oil Co.

The writer of the letter goes on to discuss the "semi-political highway robberies which flourished on the Serbo-Albanian frontier during the days when Fan Noli countenanced Yugoslav intrigues of men like Bairam Tsuri, etc." It is hardly fair to blame Mgr. Fan Noli for not immediately producing law and order where there had previously been but little. This very intelligent and learned man's chief thought was the effectual disarming of the population, which had not previously been seriously attempted. When he was first installed at Tirana he was faced with an empty Exchequer, an eye of disapproval from the Powers' representatives, corrupt permanent officials, and so on; and however worthy his ideals may have been, it was impossible for him, in the face of this antagonism, to make any material progress during the short six months he was Prime Minister.

Bairam Tsuri, whatever his faults, was probably the greatest national figure of modern Albania, and his methods, however crude, were typical of the manner by which Albania has retained her national entity in face of the numerous invasions, persecutions, and efforts at dismemberment with which the last 2,000 years of her history bristle.

The Near and Middle East Association certainly has the welfare of the Balkan peoples at heart, as the writer suggests. It is composed of men who are fully conversant with political events in that part of Europe.

Its Memorandum does not mention the word Bolshevism, as your correspondents suggest, but every unbiassed mind will agree with it in advocating a frontier Commission. May it tackle not only the Serbo-Albanian, but also the Macedo- and Greek-Albanian frontiers, and delimit them this time with an eye to history, population, and sentiment!

As I stated in *The Fortnightly Review* of February last, no Premier, whether he be Ahmed Bey, Fan Noli, or anyone else, can hope to make any progress in this stagnant, but naturally beautiful and rich country, until the Powers which caused her to be re-born realise that no offspring can survive without being fostered.—I am, etc., L. H. MANDER, F.R.G.S.

The Bath Club, 34 Dover Street, W., May 6.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your last issue I notice a long and interesting letter from Sir Harry B. Lamb, in which your correspondent confesses to some difficulty in understanding some previous remarks of mine. I hasten to enlighten him on the doubtful points.

He questions what "authority" I have for writing on the subject of the Albanian frontier. Alas, I am merely a student of European, but especially East European affairs. I know merely the country, the peoples, and their problems. It is upon this slender basis that I venture my criticisms and comments; nothing more.

Going back to the stable door, I fear Sir Harry has put his money on the wrong horse. The one that I found had bolted is not the one he misses. And may I suggest that the latter is our old friend the night mare? I am not alluding, as he appears to think, to Ahmed Bey Zogu. My meaning was surely sufficiently plain. It was this: why set up a commission to deal with frontier problems which no longer obtain? Nothing was done when, during the Fan Noli régime, Bairam Tsuri and others made continual trouble at the frontier. The horse that bolted was was the Noli régime. The horse I was alluding to bolted to Brindisi and then on to Vienna, via Rome. I was not alluding to Sir Harry's horse, which, so he seems to infer, bolted *into* Albania—*i.e.*, Ahmed Bey Zogu.—I am, etc., T. D. GLEESON.

27, Gladys Road, N.W.6, May 11.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Sir Harry B. Lamb, seems to be perturbed about the sources of my information. Presumably I am suspect in his eyes, because I am not indulging the fashionable pastime of giving the Serbs a bad name and hanging them. May I be permitted to refer Sir H. Lamb to the opening two paragraphs of my letter of May 1, in which I explain why I took it upon myself to criticise the Memorandum of the Near and Middle East Association?

I venture to hope that I have succeeded in convincing Sir H. Lamb and his friends that my intentions, although different from theirs, are equally pure.—I am, etc.,

J. MAHONEY SHEALANLOR.

7, Stanhope Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.1.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The correspondence which has been appearing recently in your columns illustrates very well a remark of the late General Phillips, that when Britons go to the Balkans, they always seem to become infected with some germ, falling furiously in love with one people, whom they praise to excess, shutting their eyes to their faults, and hating the others, whom they abuse with equal vigour. In most cases their knowledge is but superficial, their visits few and brief; they are almost invariably spoonfed by interested parties, and never hear more than one side of a question, and that almost always through interpreters. With their energetic -phobisms and -philisms they are a source of irritation to some and amusement to others. They would do better to remember that the Balkan races, like every other people in the world, have their good and their bad representatives and their good and bad characteristics. And the latter are nearer the surface and more easy to observe than in the more sophisticated and very self-satisfied West. The Balkan folk have, however, one virtue which might be copied with advantage, both in Moscow and in London. They mind their own business.—I am, etc., MALCOLM BURR.

United Services Club, May 14.

Sir Frederick Halliday's British-trained police took over two more districts of Athens on May 14.

M. Emile Dard, the new French Minister in Sofia, presented his credentials to the King of Bulgaria last Thursday.

Sir Alban Young, who is retiring after six years' service as British Minister in Belgrade, left Yugoslavia with Lady Young on May 17.

Sir Herbert Samuel, British High Commissioner in Palestine, is proceeding to India in the autumn. He will be accompanied by Lady Samuel and their daughters. The visit will be of an entirely private nature.

During a Georgian wedding ceremony held last week in the Caucasian village of Zugdidy, the house, in which 400 guests were assembled, collapsed. Five bodies have been recovered. About 100 persons were injured, many dangerously.

According to advices received in Simla from Persia, reinforcements are being sent from Teheran to the troops fighting round Bujnurd [in the extreme north] who are not strong enough to subjugate the Turkomans. The reinforcements are expected to arrive in three weeks.

Mr. Stewart Henbest Capper, of Cairo, Egypt, a member of the European Department of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, formerly Professor of Architecture at the McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and at the Victoria University, Manchester, who died on January 8, aged 65, left estate of the gross value of £10,962, with net personalty £9,862.

According to the Bombay correspondent of the *Morning Post*, twelve hundred pilgrims sailed from Bombay last Saturday for Arabia—the first shipload this year. The pilgrims, including 700 from Chinese Turkestan, had been held up for weeks in Bombay owing to the Haj Committee's warning that the pilgrimage was unsafe, and to confirming messages from the British Consul at Jeddah.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

May 21, 1925 (New Style).
May 8, 1925 (Old Style).
Shawall 27, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Iyar 27, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape left London last Thursday for Paris.

The Maharaja of Rajpipla arrived at the Savoy Hotel, London, last Thursday, from Paris.

Queen Olga, of Greece, has arranged to come to London next month from Italy for the season.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary for Air, addressed the 1900 Club on May 13 on his recent tour in the Near East.

Sir Neville and Lady Pearson have returned to 24, Cumberland Terrace, from their tour in Egypt and East Africa.

Lord Howard of Glossop and Baroness Beaumont have left Smyrna and arrived at 42, Pont Street, S.W.1., having sold 15, Manchester Square.

Mr. W. S. J. Willson, M.L.A., and Mrs. Willson have arrived from India and are staying at Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, S.W.1.

Sir Thomas and Lady Thompson and their children, who arrived in London last week from Cairo, will be staying in England during the summer.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, with Lady Chatterjee, will leave shortly for Geneva, where he will be the principal representative of the Government of India at the International Labour Conference.

The 18th Calcutta Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at the Hotel Cecil, London. Mr. R. Langford James will preside, and the chief guest will be Sir Henry Wheeler, K.C.S.I., Governor of Behar and Orissa.

The Earl of Reading visited the office of the High Commissioner for India, at Grosvenor Gardens on May 13, and was received by Sir Atul Chaterjee and the chief officers of the staff.

Mr. Claud Russell was received in audience by The King at Buckingham Palace on May 13, upon his relinquishing his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Addis Ababa.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen have let their house in Catherine Street, Westminster, and are spending the summer at Court-in-Holmes, Forest Row, Sussex.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur gave a dinner party last Friday at the Carlton Restaurant, at which the guests included Rao Rajah Narpat Singh, Thakur Prithi Singh, Maharaj Ajit Singh, and Sir Allan and Lady Horne.

The Countess of Lytton left London last Thursday by the P. and O. boat express to embark on the Maloja at Marseilles for Bombay. She is joining the Earl of Lytton, the Viceroy of India and Acting Governor-General during the Earl of Reading's absence.

At a Congregation held at Cambridge University on May 15 the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Seward, Master of Downing) presiding, a grace was passed in favour of conferring the Degree of Doctor of Law (honoris causa) on Lord Reading, Viceroy of India.

Colonel Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affiairs, arrived in London last Saturday night. He was received by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on Monday, and on Tuesday was entertained to lunch by Sir Edward and Lady Boyle. He left for the Continent on Wednesday.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The following appointments are announced:—

Mr. Cecil Gervase Hope Gill, to be Vice-Consul at Tetuan.

Mr. William David Woodside Matthews, to be one of his Majesty's Consuls in the Levant Consular Service.

Mr. Alexander Knox Helm, O.B.E., to be one of his Majesty's Vice-Consuls in the Levant Consular Service.

Mr. William Stanley Edmonds, O.B.E., to be one of his Majesty's Consuls-General in the Levant Consular Service.

Zekiai Bey, Turkish Ambassador in London, has been appointed Ambassador in Moscow.

Vedid Bey, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in London, has been transferred to the Embassy in Rome.

Saib Bey has been appointed Turkish Consul-General in London, where he arrived on May 12.

Mr. A. S. Preston of Alexandria, the Crown Prosecutor in Egypt, has been appointed to succeed the late Judge Scott in the Mixed Court of First Instance.

Colonel George S. Symes, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has been appointed to succeed Sir Gilbert Clayton as Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, has been Governor of the Northern District of Palestine since 1919.

Mr. Cecil Robert Fforde, K.C., who has been Judge of the High Court of the Punjab since 1922, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore in place of Sir Henry Scott-Smith, who has retired.

Rear-Admiral W. A. Howard Kelly, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., late Head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, has been appointed to succeed Rear-Admiral T. D. Gilbert, C.B., as commander of the Second Cruiser Squadron of the Atlantic Fleet.

Consequent upon the death of Admiral of the Fleet Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee, Bt., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., LL.D., the King has approved of the following promotion: Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset A. Gough-Calthorpe, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.V.O., First and Principal Naval Aide-de-Camp to his Majesty, to be Admiral of the Fleet, to date May 8. Whilst Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean station in 1917-19, Admiral Gough-Calthorpe also acted part of that period as High Commissioner at Constantinople.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925.

INDIA AND SECURITY.

In the course of his speech when introducing this year's Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said: "What are the twin supreme objectives of public policy at the present time? I can give them in a single sentence. Security of the wage-earner against exceptional misfortune, and encouragement of enterprise through a relief of burdens resting upon industry." If the same question were asked about India at present, the answer might well be an abbreviated form of the same words—Security and encouragement of enterprise. *The Times*, in an obviously inspired article on Recruits for the Indian Civil Service, in its issue of April 17, devoted a good deal of space to the former. It said that, of all questions, the most urgent is that of recruitment: and gave, as one of the main reasons for the deficiency of recruits, the feeling of insecurity—"What sort of security was there that an Englishman who entered the Service now would not find himself no longer wanted before his life's work was half done?" Shortly before his death, Lord Rawlinson had spoken, in the Assembly, of the length of time that must elapse before India can rely for her protection on any army of her own: from which *The Times* deduced the necessity for the retention, in British hands, of "a kernel of civil administration" so long as British troops are required in India: and added, "It is facts such as these that promise to an Englishman who enters the I.C.S. a security more valid than that of any spoken pledge or written contract."

At the present moment the real desideratum in India is security: and all her other requirements are subordinate to that. Even Mr. Churchill's second objective, "encouragement of enterprise," depends on it; for neither the European nor the Indian will invest money in industry, unless he feels reasonably certain of the enjoyment of its fruits without disturbance. Apart from India's need of external security against invasion and internal security against dissension, she needs administrative security for the official and industrial security for the commercial man: it is a matter that affects every individual, European and Indian, whose work or interests lie in India. It is well known, and cannot be too often repeated, that every Indian, without exception, admits the need for the continued presence of the Englishman in India, however great may be the divergences as to the actual terms on which his presence should continue. As *The Times* article says, "to any close observer of Indian affairs it is unquestionable that a long time must elapse before we can lay down the trust that we hold in India": and it follows, as a necessary corollary, that, so long as Englishmen continue to hold this trust, so long must they be sure of security in which to do so. The constructive security due to the presence of British troops in India is not enough, nor even such positive security as the "spoken pledge or written contract" to which reference is made. The latter, though they would guarantee compensation for disturbance of the position of an official, could not possibly guarantee him against retirement "before his life's work was half done": and no spoken pledge or written word could guarantee the position of the non-official or the reasonable safety of his stake in the country. No: what is needed is more than any of these, and it is to be looked for from the Government of Great Britain, not in words or phrases, but in deliberate and definite action.

The opportunity for such action will necessarily occur in 1929, when the working of the Reforms comes to be reviewed; but circumstances may well arise that will call for an earlier decision. The Government of India is predominantly British at the top: and it is a question whether, in the next advance of India towards the status of a self-governing Dominion, that predominance, so far from being weakened, or even remaining as it now is, should not be strengthened. Many critics of the existing Reforms declare that a considerably greater measure of responsibility, in the management of their own affairs, could be given to the various nationalities of India, if it were agreed that the Central Government of India as a whole should remain in British hands: an arrangement, they say, whereby Indians could learn to walk the shorter paths of self-government as a preparation for their eventual task of running the full course: and one which, they argue, would not only be beneficial to India, but also congenial to Indians. It is undeniable that the average Indian dislikes responsibility: and it is beside the point to inquire whether the century-old presence of the Englishman in India is responsible for that dislike—it is enough that its existence is almost universal. The Indian's real idea of a position of responsibility almost invariably presupposes the existence of an adviser whom he can ask for the answer to a conundrum that he cannot solve himself—a man in a position somewhat analogous to that of the permanent official in the government of Great Britain. But, whatever may be the eventual decision of Parliament, it is still a long way off, and will necessarily be largely governed by the answers, as they are then known, to questions that are being asked now. Among these the question of recruitment is the most urgent; so that it is worth while to consider one aspect of the greater question of security—the security of the British official in India. It is beyond doubt that the views of the official now serving have a great effect on those of the potential recruit of his own class: it is equally beyond doubt that the former is nervous about the future and that his nervousness centres much more on the question of security than on that of material benefits, present or prospective. *The Times* mentions, as a "vital question," the establishment of a Public Services Commission as recommended by the Lee Report: and this has a most important bearing on the matter at issue. It is one on which an immediate decision is possible, though its satisfactory solution bristles with difficulties, such as the strength and complexion of its constitution, the adjustment of its functions so as not to offend Provincial sentiment, whether it should be responsible to the Government of India or directly to the Secretary of State, whether its official element should consist of officers on or off the active list; but it may be said with certainty that on a satisfactory solution will depend, in a great measure, the answer to the question of recruitment, and that an unsatisfactory solution would be worse than none at all. The early appointment of a strong Public Services Commission, as an interim measure of security, would hold out an immediate hope to the serving official and would go a great way to remove his nervousness as to the future.

THE INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER.

In our issue of April 16 we wrote that the High Commissioner for India has a Trade Commissioner on his staff, whose business is to promote sales to India, but who has practically nothing to do with the marketing of Indian goods: and added that it is an essential part of a High Commissioner's duty that, "to use the current phrase, he should maintain a shop window in London for the country which he represents." We are authoritatively informed that the former statement was erroneous: that, in fact, the Indian Trade Commissioner's sole functions consist in trying to extend the market for Indian goods in this country and on the Continent. He has nothing whatever to do with the sale of British goods in India, which is the business of the Department of Overseas Trade. An understanding has been reached between the Indian Trade Commissioner and that Department, under which the former disposes of all inquiries for Indian goods in this country, while the latter disposes of all inquiries as to the

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Indian market for British goods. We regret that we should have fallen into this error, and are glad to be able to correct it. As to the question of a shop window, we understand that, although the Indian Trade Commissioner's Office at 42, Grosvenor Gardens is rather far out of the City, through the courtesy of the London Chamber of Commerce he occupies a room (Committee Room A) in their offices in Cannon Street twice a week, from 11 to 12 on Mondays and Fridays, when he attends to Indian trade inquiries. The High Commissioner for India has, it is true, no actual "shop-window," but he has a show room at 42, Grosvenor Gardens, where Indian goods can be seen—"arts and crafts," such as silk, brass, silver and lacquer ware, carvings, and so on: while a list of importers of other Indian goods is kept up, to whom inquiriers are directed.

MISSIONARY VIEWS ON INDIA.

The Conference of the Student Christian Movement, held in Manchester last January, yielded a number of interesting addresses on India to which, even at this late hour, it may be worth while to call attention. Missionaries in India claim that they come in closer contact with the people of the soil than the average British official or commercial man, and it is interesting to note that the speeches delivered in a discussion on "India in the Twentieth Century" put forward views almost identical with those advocated by THE NEAR EAST.

One of the most important addresses was that of Mr. J. H. Oldham, who said that the way that Indians in the mass felt and resolved would, in the end, determine the issue of British rule in India. "If the peasants in any large numbers got it into their heads that British rule is injurious and that they would be better off under Swaraj, it would make no difference whether they were right or wrong, or whether their choice would lead them to the realisation of their hopes or plunge them in irremediable calamity. If the natural and legitimate desire of India to assert her own freedom were the sole issue, the Indian problem would be relatively simple; but the problem was not so simple. The hard fact, which no ardour of aspiration and no sympathy with that aspiration could conceal, was that the people of India were far from homogeneous, and that the different communities inhabiting the land were separated from one another in large measure by mutual distrust—British rule had been accepted by India largely because it had provided an impartial justice and held the scales even between the separated communities. But the fundamental problems of Indian life to-day were not so much political as economic. The chief social need of India to-day was a determined effort to deal with her economic problems, to improve her agriculture, to foster her industries and to elevate the conditions of life in the tens of thousands of villages in which the overwhelming majority of her population was to be found. To eliminate economic evils demanded, among other things, technical ability and administrative experience which India had, at present, in insufficient measure, and which Great Britain might help to supply. Moreover, the British connection was a historic fact and, as a result of it, British interests existed and had their own legitimate claim to consideration; and, even if political connection were severed, commercial relations would continue and would need to be regulated, and means would still have to be found of removing causes of friction and of maintaining peace."

The Rev. John Grant, of the London Missionary Society in the United Provinces, after stating his personal opinion that the Montague-Chelmsford reforms were hastily conceived and altogether ill adapted to Indian life, and that the entire scheme would have to be born again, described the organisation, in the villages, of small co-operative credit societies which enabled the members to borrow at twelve instead of fifty per cent., gave them immunity from those who had habitually cheated them, and gave them self-respect and a widening interest in life. In these societies he saw a framework which the Government of India must some day work upon, since it would supply an illiterate but extremely intelligent people with the beginnings of political education, in an attempt to introduce what seemed to him to be he only possible kind of political institution for India—one based upon the village unit.

Major Salkield, late City Engineer of Delhi, said that, in considering the influence of those engaged in commerce, industry and the services in India, it was necessary to realise how little modern industry had affected the great bulk of the Indian population, only nine per cent of which lived in towns, compared with about 78 per cent. in Great Britain. "A commission which had been collecting data in connection with industrial development in India had laid emphasis on the necessity for making primary education general, for fostering technical education, for creating a class of skilled artisans, for better housing and for welfare work among factory employees. The Government was expected to play an important part in all these matters; but, when the educated classes took as deep an interest in industrial matters as in politics, it might be expected that they would take them in hand themselves." Finally, the speaker emphasised the necessity for maintaining the personal prestige of the Briton in India, by continuing to send there only the best of our countrymen. "It was to this prestige and not to the power of the sword, that our successful rule in India was to be attributed: we had a noble heritage there, and to live up to the standard of their predecessors should be the ambition of all who went out to India from this country."

CURRENT TOPICS.

Indian Meteorology.

Sir Gilbert Walker, late Director of Indian Observatories, delivered a lecture on the meteorology of India before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on May 8. The lecture was illustrated by diagrams and photographs, without the reproduction of which it is difficult to do justice to it. The lecturer referred to "the economic and social relationships of meteorology, which in India are of exceptional importance, because rainfall affects the area of land which is placed under cultivation as well as the success of the crops; it affects the incidence of malaria and plague, and on these depend the population available for tilling the soil and working in factories. Thus, while it is essential for steady progress to learn by statistical methods what are the relationships between the factors controlling national well-being, it is clear that weather is one of the most important of them." He also mentioned that he had recently been trying to promote a scheme for cooling the air in large Government buildings: and had arrived at the conclusion that, "over the large part of India in which the air is dry during the hot weather, the process of cooling it by fifteen degrees would not be expensive if the necessary appliances were inserted when the building was erected. On entering the cooled premises it might be desirable to wear a light overcoat for a few minutes; but after that no difficulty would arise, and the circulation of fresh air at a moderate temperature adds considerably to mental activity. The cost would be but a small fraction of the salaries of the officers employed, except in regions where the air is damp and special arrangements would be necessary for drying it, like those which are generally employed in cotton mills."

"Is England Worth Keeping?"

An article by Dr. Atherton Mercer appears in the *Daily News* of May 6, in which he discusses, from the point of view of the educated Indian, the question whether the connection with England is worth retention: and arrives at the conclusion that it is. From the external point of view, the defence that England gives to India is invaluable —"if England withdrew her protection—and after all it is more protection than rule—one of two things, and possibly both, would speedily happen. India would be attacked and captured by a foreign nation: or the seventy million Moslems in India would make common cause with the Moslems of Central Asia and India would become a land of carnage and bloodshed." Internally, India needs the presence of England, which keeps the peace in a land which "is not, in the English meaning of the term, a nation, but rather a collection of races, dominated by the two great divisions of Hindus and Moslems." More-

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over, the credit that India secures in the markets of the world is mostly due to her connection with the British Empire: and "those who talk so glibly and so foolishly about getting rid of England fail to realise the vast amount of British capital invested in India. Quite seventy-five per cent. of the capital required to run the country's commercial and industrial concerns is British and, if this were withdrawn, it is easy to see what would happen. To quote but one example—nearly all the tea gardens are British owned, and worked with British capital: and, out of an annual crop of about 339 million pounds of tea, Great Britain and the British Empire purchase over 312 million pounds."

American Trade in India.

Commerce Reports, the weekly survey of Foreign trade published by the American Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, draws attention to the importance of the Indian market, in view of the fact that "India ranks among the first seven countries of the world in the aggregate value of its foreign trade." The paper says "American exporters seem to have first discovered the Indian market during the war period. Since then our exports to India have been growing slowly but steadily, and American goods have apparently won a permanent place. From 1914 to 1924 our contribution to India's total imports increased from 2.6 to 5.6 per cent., and from all indications we shall be able at least to hold our own, if not to increase our present share during the next few years. While India's purchasing power is low compared even to that of certain other Oriental countries—Japan for example—the difference is offset to a certain extent by the large population. It must be remembered also that the country is now awakening to a period of industrial development, in which large quantities of machinery, construction materials, etc., will be required."

Elsewhere the same paper remarks that India is a good market for toys, and says, "although competition is very strong, it is believed that American toys of nearly all kinds can be hold—especially distinctive types which have not yet been offered. Of India's 320 million inhabitants, approximately 75 per cent are agriculturists, nearly all of whom might be disregarded, by reason of their low purchasing power, when estimating the potential market for toys and similar articles. The urban population, however, and the Europeans and Anglo-Indians scattered in the country districts, are sufficiently numerous to ensure a good market. . . . Price is the chief consideration determining the sale of almost all products in India, and it is no doubt for this reason that Japan and Germany have secured such a large share of the toy market. Bright colours are particularly appreciated and, in manufacturing toys for the Indian market, this fact should be kept in mind."

The Assistant Trade Commissioner in Bombay gives instances of the installation of Mirrlees Diesel engines in that Presidency, and says there is at present a considerable opportunity for further sales.

The American Consul at Madras reports the discovery of coal at Kamasamudram in Mysore, eighteen miles from the railway station of Bowringpet: and adds "A new coal mine in South India, if operated successfully, will be a great economic asset in the matter of conducting the various Mysore gold mines and in supplying the South Indian railways."

Competition in the Indian Cotton Markets.

The *Manchester Guardian Commercial* of May 14 contains a full and interesting discussion of the position of the Indian market as it affects Lancashire. The writer shows, by statistics, that the consumption per head of cotton cloth in India, after a heavy drop during and after the War, is beginning to revive: but that the Indian and Japanese share of that consumption is considerably greater than in pre-War days. "From meeting rather less than one-third of her requirements with her own mills, India now meets more than one-half. The equivalent average for Japan is fractional, but a much greater fraction than in 1913-14." He refers to the argument that the products of India and Japan do not compete directly with those of Lancashire: and says that, even if that argument is correct, they do compete indirectly, "for every potential demand for Lancashire goods, that is satisfied with a cheaper and inferior cloth from another source, has by this been cancelled at the obvious expense of our trade." There is a rather widely held belief that, though the purchasing power of India has admittedly declined, it is recovering, and, as it improves, the Indian consumer will buy more Lancashire goods, but the writer thinks this belief ill founded: "once a competitor has secured a foothold, it is extraordinarily difficult to dislodge him." He says that the chief threat to the Lancashire trade lies in the inevitable continuance of the expansion of production in the East, and adds, "There are two ways out of the present depression. Prices are the key to the situation, and both courses depend on our prices being reduced. Either we must so increase our sales of those classes of goods, for which we possess the greatest relative advantages, as to displace competing cloth, or we must meet India and Japan on their own ground. . . . The situation may well be summed up in the following words: 'When we consider that the entire cotton trade of this country is the growth of very little over a century, and that it has ceased to expand at an important rate which, as will be seen from details, the Indian trade is growing with great rapidity, there is just cause for anxiety as to the future of Lancashire.' But it is consoling to recall that this appeared in the *Textile Mercury* of May 17, 1890."

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Railways.

The Railway Board will take over the working of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway from July 1 next. It is expected that the Allahabad-Jubbulpore section of the East Indian Railway will be transferred to the G.I.P. in October: and that the amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway with the E.I.R. will be effected in June or July.

The Government of India will be represented, at the International Railway Conference that will be held in London at the end of June, by Mr. Hindley, the Chief Commissioner of Indian Railways, Sir Ernest Bell, Government Directorof Indian Railway Companies in London, and Mr. Chase, Director of Mechanical Engineering with the Railway Board. Each of the Indian Railways is also nominating representatives from among their officers who will be on leave in England this summer.

The Railway Board have deputed an officer to inquire into the adequacy of the existing railway arrangements at Calcutta and to submit recommendations. An important point in the inquiry is whether "the terminal facilities provided for merchandise by the three broad gauge railways serving Calcutta (Bengal Nagpur, Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railways) are suitable, sufficient, and convenient, or whether they call for improvement: and, if so, to what extent and in what directions."

When the mail left, the latest news of the North-Western Railway strike was that approximately 20,000 men were out, including about 9,000 at Lahore and over 2,000 at Karachi. The strike originated at Rawal Pindi, and its spread was largely "sympathetic." The men put forward a series of demands, including one that no employé of over five years' service should be dismissed except with the concurrence of a committee of his comrades. The officials of the Railway Union declare that the strike "will not stop until the railway train service is disorganised." The Agent of the North-Western Railway has issued a statement saying that "there are clear indications that a large proportion of the men have absented themselves not on account of any grievance, real or supposed, but because they have been prevented from going to work through extensive intimidation. No mail, passenger, or goods services have been curtailed, though the trains have in some cases been delayed, but not to any serious extent." A number of the Karachi strikers have been dismissed, and no special difficulty appears to have been found in filling their places.

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The Calcutta Dock Scheme.

The great scheme for extension of the Port of Calcutta, already badly congested some time before the War, the progress of which was interrupted by the war, is now proceeding systematically. The scheme included five riverside berths—one for coaling purposes only and the other four equipped with appliances suitable for the export and import trade—which were completed in 1923; and a new dock system, known as "King George's Dock," which was begun in 1920. This latter includes two graving docks and a number of wet docks, the provision of five of which is now in hand; it is hoped that work will be sufficiently advanced in 1927 to allow of the entry of vessels. The riverside berths can accommodate ships up to a draft of 40 feet: and the lock entrance to King George's Dock will allow of the passage of vessels of 90 feet in breadth, 700 feet in length, and 31 feet draft. The water area of the dock will be such that the largest vessels visiting the port can be turned round in the basin adjacent to the entrances—a matter which, at present, is one of considerable difficulty. The portion of the wet dock that is now in hand will be capable of accommodating a total tonnage of 160,000: and provision is being made for a marshalling yard, for the sorting of rolling stock entering and leaving the Port, capable of dealing with a turnover of 4,000 trucks a day.

Bombay Mill Industry

The mill industry in Bombay is passing through a critical time, and the prospects are decidedly gloomy. Hardly a week passes without the closing down of at least one mill: very few continue to work at a profit, and those that are not actually running at a loss are mostly unable to do more than cover their costs. The low rate of the Japanese yen and the comparatively high value of the rupee tell in favour of Japanese competition and against export: and the stocks in hand in the Bombay mills continue to increase. In March the stock of yarn was 7,000 bales, and the stock of cloth 15,000 bales, more than in February. A contributory cause is the high price of cotton ruling in America and Liverpool. The Bombay millowners were in hopes that removal of the excise duty would enable them to tide over the present difficult time; but this hope has been frustrated, and, though they have petitioned the Viceroy in the matter, they hardly expect a favourable reply, and cannot expect an early one. The demand for the repeal of the excise duty was represented, in the Legislative Assembly, as a demand for preferential treatment of the Bombay mill-owners, which it was necessary to put aside in the interests of the Provinces whose contributions to the Central Government could not be reduced if the duty were abolished. But the cotton industry in India is not confined to Bombay, and it is not only in Bombay that the refusal to abolish it is looked upon as a distinct breach of faith; while Bombay, the chief sufferer by its retention, is also one of the Provinces least favoured in the matter of the reduction of the contributions to the Central Government.

In discussing the present critical condition of the mill industry, the *Indian Daily Mail* (Bombay) refers to the practice of appointing a firm of managing agents of a factory; which, the paper says, is chiefly due to the fact that "most of the mills were founded with absurdly small amounts of capital, and it was by lending money themselves or borrowing, largely at their own risk and on their own credit, that the managing agents contrived to make the enterprises, of which they had taken charge, successful. With the failure of the Legislative Assembly to secure the abolition of the cotton excise duty, the obligation upon managing agents of mills to examine the internal organisation of the latter and to eliminate inefficiency, waste, or corruption, has been reinforced. . . The great and undoubted evils that exist in Indian industry are due to the very simple fact, that shareholders refuse to take any interest in the conduct of the affairs of a company in which they have made an investment. All that the shareholder in India is concerned about is the receipt of a dividend. To put it quite plainly, it is a matter of complete indifference to the shareholder whether he is robbed or not, so long as he receives what he considers an adequate dividend. On the other hand, let a company be managed with the highest integrity and efficiency, but let it fail to pay a dividend, and the Directors or Managing Agents, or both, are certain to be abused. By hook or crook, the Managing Agents must find the money with which to pay dividends. That is the key to the whole situation. It is a state of things in which no firm of managing agents can ever take the risk of incurring a temporary loss, in order to stimulate demand or introduce new methods of production."

The Training of Skilled Labour.

The *Pioneer* of April 23 writes: "When the development of Indian industries is discussed, consideration is naturally given to the progress made by Indians, especially of the educated classes, in providing skilled and semi-skilled labour for the various manufacturing industries which have been started in this country. Even in the most highly organised industry in India, the cotton mill industry, reliance still has to be placed on a large amount of imported labour to fill the higher supervisory and technical posts. This, indeed, is one of the defects which many Indian politicians profess to see in the industrial system at present; but they are inclined to overlook the fact that the remedy lies in the hands of Indians themselves." The article goes on to explain how the Government munition and equipment factories are "encouraging a policy of Indianising the ranks of the industrial labour which they employ and spreading among Indians of the educated classes a knowledge of factory organisation which should prove invaluable to the private enterprises of the future." Owing to the excellence of the training imparted in these factories, the hands employed in them form a fruitful source of supply to large firms in India, particularly in the engineering and steel trades: and it is estimated that, out of 12,000 artisans on the rolls, some 2,000 leave every year on this account. "If the present scheme of training progresses on the lines laid down, it may be found, in ten years' time, to have revolutionised the skilled labour market in India."

Compulsory Education.

The Punjab Compulsory Education Act has been extended to Delhi Province, and the Delhi Municipality have adopted the principle of compulsory education. The *Pioneer*, in reporting this decision, writes: "Where compulsory education has been in force in other parts of India, some progress has been made; but it is recognised, even in such an educationally advanced Province as Madras, that the present process is merely that of laying the foundation for the erection of the complete structure. . . . That national progress depends largely on the rapidity with which the education of the masses is developed must be generally recognised. On the whole, however, the eagerness of the reformer is far in advance of public opinion, the education of which is almost an essential preliminary to the education of the younger generation."

Civil Service Examination.

The results are announced of the competitive examination, held at Allahabad in January, for five vacancies in the Indian Civil Service. Ninety-five candidates appeared: 24 from the Punjab, 17 from Madras, 16 from the United Provinces, 14 from Bombay, 13 from Bengal, 4 each from the Central Provinces and from Bihar and Orissa, 2 from Assam, and 1 from Burma. Madras (three) and the Punjab (two) divided the successes among them: and, though one of the successful candidates from the Punjab is a Bengali, it is rather surprising to note the failure of all the candidates sent up by Bengal; which, in the early days of the admission of Indians into the I.C.S., held a practical monopoly.

The European Association.

Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the Punjab, attended the dinner of the Punjab branch of the European Association, at Lahore. He referred to the vast improvement in material conditions and the growth of ideals of political freedom that had resulted from the entrance of the British into India: and said that India had everything to gain from the inclusion of Englishmen in the new politics, and everything to lose if British assistance, character, and experience ceased to be available to her. He urged non-

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official Europeans not to confine their attention to developments that seemed likely to threaten their interests: "Britons in India will take their true position only when they show a genuine interest in questions of general and vital importance to India, and exhibit a genuine desire to assist India to a solution."

Ceylon Pearl Fishery.

The Ceylon pearl fishery has been a disappointing one this year. During the 36 days that the fishery lasted, about eighteen million oysters were obtained, which compared poorly with the expected number of thirty million; while a large proportion of the oysters were immature. The Government share of the oysters secured an average price at auction of Rs. 45 per thousand; but local comment describes this price as fictitious and due to "an orgy of gambling participated in by all classes of the community, including some of the poorest classes in the Island." The system on which the fishery is carried on is criticised, and it is urged that, if the Government cannot get legitimate prices from genuine and experienced pearl speculators, it should market the pearls itself. Complaint is also made of the sudden closing of the fishery following on an announcement that the Government auctions would cease if the price fell below Rs. 30 per thousand.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"MODERN TURKEY."

"MODERN TURKEY." By Eliot Grinnell Mears (New York: The Macmillan Company. 25s. net).

The most obvious criticism that has to be levelled at Mr. Mears' very informative work on Turkey is that, having been compiled in 1920, it ought not to have been held back from publication until the end of 1924. The only attempt made to meet this objection is contained in the words: "Publication was deemed inadvisable during the turmoil of 1920-1922." But the logic of the delay is not convincing in view of the fact that it was the Turks rather than potential readers of the book who were involved in the turmoil. Moreover the "turmoil" proved no obstacle to the appearance of the useful publication, also American, entitled "Constantinople To-day or the Pathfinder Survey of Constantinople." In the chapters contributed by Mr. Mears himself, and in one or two others, the information has been brought more up-to-date, and the reader is left to regret that complete uniformity in this respect was not attained.

The compilation of a comprehensive book on Modern Turkey labours under the difficulty that there is no central source of information covering the whole country. Reliable statistics are almost unknown. The Republican Government has not been long enough in existence to remedy this state of affairs, but the form in which its budget last year was presented to the Assembly justifies the hope that before long the value of statistical information will be more widely appreciated. In the face of these drawbacks Dr. Mears and his colleagues have done admirably in presenting to the reader a volume as interesting as it is valuable. Here and there a writer, as in the case of the chapter on Public Health, will be obliged to confine himself to the portion of Turkey with which he is personally familiar; but for the rest care is taken to give as far as possible an insight in to the conditions governing the whole of the country. Dr. Mears indeed includes a chapter on the Arab question, although it no longer enters into the scheme of the post-War Turkey. Not the least praiseworthy part of the book is the dispassionate way in which the subject is handled. The desire to be fair to the Turks is not allowed to lapse into bias, nor is there any conscious attempt to make the worse appear the better cause. A variety of causes is given for the decline of the Otterman Empire; the degeneracy of the later Sultans; the lack of any large benefits conferred by the descendants of the conquering Turks ("Wherever the Otterman Government has had an opportunity to exercise authority, decay, destruction and desolation have resulted."); the failure of the Turks to respond to the progress of world civilisation; the steady diminution in the number of Turks, the lack of intellectual stimulus and the absence of family life. Yet a whole people cannot be indicted, and the purpose of "Modern Turkey" is "to give that kind of a perspective on the conflicting factors underlying the politico-economic life of Turkey which may serve to reveal both their relative values and their interrelation." To indicate the care with which this purpose is carried out it will be enough here to enumerate some of the chapter headings: Racial Characteristics, Religions, Education ("The Turkish Educational system is good theory but poor in practice"), Women, Transportation and Communication, Land Tenure, Irrigation, Agriculture, Forests, Mines, Commerce, Levantine Concession Hunting, Government, Capitulations, and The Kemalist Movement.

The Select Documents at the end of the book constitute a valuable section. They are thirty-seven in number, covering the period from November 1914 to the Declaration of the Republic in October 1923, and include the text or a summary of every important document bearing on Turkey connected with those nine eventful years. An index of eighty-seven is a worthy conclusion to a worthy book.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"Three Inscriptions from Crete." Translated and Edited by Richard Johnson Walker. (Monaco: Richard Johnson Walker, 20 Rue Emile de Loth. 10s. 6d.)

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Lord Ronaldshay, president of the Royal Geographical Society, is resigning that office, which he has held for the customary three years. At the anniversary general meeting of the Society to be held on June 15, the Council will propose that Dr. David G. Hogarth shall be elected his successor, Lord Ronaldshay becoming a trustee of the Society in place of the late Lord Curzon of Kedleston.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Mr. Churchill's Problems.

It cannot be said that there are any very evident signs that time is likely to reconcile people to certain items in the Budget; on the contrary further consideration seems only to increase the hostility of trade and industry to Mr. Churchill's proposals. There is little doubt now that the progress of the Budget will be marked by concessions, though whether they will be sufficient to satisfy business opinion must remain to be seen. Personally, I must own to a feeling of intense surprise at the Budget as a whole, for whatever the merits or demerits of the proposals the production is inconsistent with the times in which we live. The main problem to be grappled with is the question of curtailing taxation. This has been done to a small extent, but we have the paradox that what has been taken off with one hand has been put on with another, so that industry is little the better, and in some cases apparently worse, off than before. There was only one safe course before the Chancellor, and that was to insist on the reduction of expenditure in every possible direction; and to utilise the results to the full for the reduction of taxation. But the Budget total is £800,000,000; in other words, we are no further on the road towards economical administration; while fresh burdens are imposed on a country already heavily overtaxed. It was expected that Mr. Churchill would produce a unique Budget: we can only say that he has certainly done so.

The Egyptian Budget.

Particulars are now available of the Egyptian Budget. The revenue is estimated at £E36,870,000, and the expenditure is put at £E36,288,266, provision being thus made for a surplus of £E581,734. Last year the estimated surplus was £E420,000 on a revenue of £E34,400,000. The general reserve, incidentally, has now been brought up to £E22,000,000. It will be evident from these figures that the financial position of the country continues to be very favourable. Egypt has benefited very considerably during the last twelve months, of course, from the good prices that have been obtained for cotton, while the tourist season has again been quite satisfactory. The world cotton situation suggests that for a long time to come Egypt will be able to depend on an excellent return from her cotton, while the growing popularity of other winter resorts such as Morocco does not seem to be affecting the valley of the Nile to any extent; and indeed is scarcely likely to do so, for the land of the Pharoahs has a glamour and an attraction peculiarly its own.

The Cotton Outlook.

The outlook with regard to cotton is rather obscure at the moment. Judging by present reports the next American crop will be appreciably larger than the present one, while with the considerable increase of the production in other regions that presumably can be counted on with confidence it would seem that next year with the present world demand for cotton goods there will be ample cotton to meet all possible requirements. One might therefore anticipate that Lancashire will be able to obtain her supplies at a reasonable low price, and will then be able to assist demand by reducing the price of cotton goods. But it would be unwise to count on anything like this so far ahead. The factors in the equation are far too uncertain. In the intervening period much may happen to the cotton crop to affect it favourably or otherwise, while the world demand for cotton goods is an equally variable factor. With the continuance of the present trade depression only a relatively moderate crop would suffice to meet requirements, but if there should be a general trade revival even the good crop that present indications point to would be inadequate.

Tobacco Growing in Palestine.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a review of the International Tobacco Exhibition which has now ended. It was the seventh of the series of the exhibitions which were inaugurated about 25 years ago, and there is very little doubt that it has been quite the most successful of the series. The countries represented included Greece, Italy, Turkey, while an indication of the potentialities of the British Empire as a producer of tobacco was given by a Canadian exhibit. It is rather surprising that Palestine was not represented also, for this country is now taking up the cultivation of tobacco very seriously. Samples of the last season's Palestine crop were sent to this country for examination, and leading tobacco manufacturers were so impressed, it is stated, that they are willing to try certain grades.

Proposed Cotton Propoganda.

For some time now the sale of rubber goods has been helped by the judicious use of propaganda, and if the suggestion made in a contemporary by Mr. Arthur H. Cousins, of Horrickses, Crewdson and Co., Ltd., is adopted the markets for cotton goods overseas will be stimulated in a similar way. Mr. Cousins advocates the establishment of a central bureau at Manchester for advertising and propaganda with branches in the chief markets, and says that propaganda overseas will have to go beyond the usual methods, and he suggests travelling exhibitions and cinematograph shows and similar things. His belief is that the cumulative results of such propaganda would be of great benefit to the industry, and the project is certainly worth trying, for if the great obstacle to the expansion of Lancashire's trade at the present time is the lack of purchasing power there is no question that normally there is a great field still to be tapped. There is also the question of growing foreign competition, especially in the Near Eastern markets which must be met with determination if British goods are to hold theor own. Nothing could do this more effectively than a series of demonstrations of the quality of Lancashire products.

Lord Kylsant on the Outlook.

A very interest speech was made at the annual meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce last week by the retiring president, Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G., in the course of which he discussed the trade outlook. Lord Kylsant

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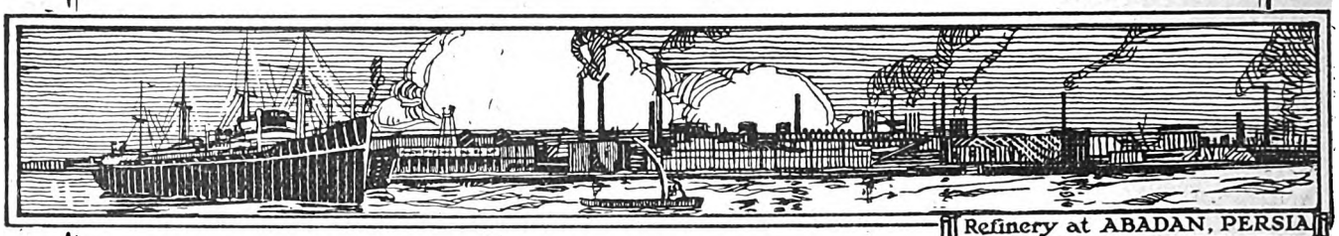

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SWANSEA		

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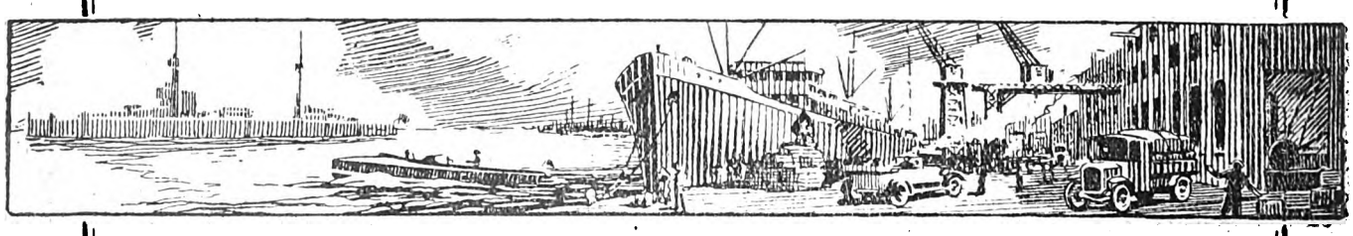
British in Capital, Management and Policy



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takes a favourable view of the situation, and considers that substantial grounds exist for the belief that the worst has been seen of the trade depression. In Europe, he pointed out, there are more evidences of recovery and economic settlement than existed when he took office, the Dawes scheme has assisted the restoration of order out of chaos, and the exchanges have become more stable. Dealing with the controversial question of the gold standard, he said that if this country is to retain her position as the financial centre of the world it would have been necessary, sooner or later, to readopt the gold standard, and it would have been opposed to British traditions if we did not take advantage of a reasonably favourable opportunity to take our courage in our hands and reintroduce the gold standard. In his opinion, while its restoration may cause a temporary disturbance of business it will mark the beginning of a new era in the prosperity of the country. Lord Kylsant emphasised the necessity to increase exports to provide a surplus fund for development purposes and for the natural expansion of trade. In his view the process of rebuilding British trade must necessarily be gradual. In this connection he laid stress on the need for greater and cheaper production. "This," he said, "is the way to bring about a restoration of British trade prosperity."

Oil *versus* Coal.

The fuel question was touched upon by Lord Kylsant who recalled that thirty years ago South Wales steam coal was delivered at the ports at under 10s. per ton, while now the price is 150 per cent. higher at 25s. per ton. It is not surprising in the circumstances that a great impetus should have been given to the use of oil. Lord Kylsant went on to point out while many large passenger vessels now burn oil instead of coal a further development is silently taking place and that is the advent of the motorship which burns neither oil nor coal, but has internal combustion engines and consumes oil in the same way that a motor car consumes petrol. His shipping companies already have no less than thirty motorships, and will shortly launch the largest motorship in the world. Lord Kylsant added that the British coal trade was apt to overlook these hard facts with their ominous significance.

Empire Development.

The question of the utilisation of the Empire's resources was also dealt with by Lord Kylsant who said that they presented a very fruitful field for big future developments. He went on to point out how forcibly the war revealed the extent to which Great Britain had become dependent on outside sources for many vital necessities. The British Commonwealth of Nations can, he believes, produce practically all the component parts require and thus become more self-contained and self-supporting. He cited in this connection the outstanding example of cotton. "In the past," he said, "America supplied nearly all of our requirements of raw cotton. A shortage of American supplies, through increasing home consumption, led to inquiries whether large quantities of cotton could not be produced within the Empire. By means of the fine pioneer work of the British Cotton Growing Association and other bodies, it was made evident that huge tracts of eminently suitable cotton growing land existed in many different parts of the British Empire, so that before long I hope that our cotton industry will not be wholly dependent upon America for the major portion of their supplies of raw cotton. The production of cotton within the Empire is increasing year by year. The importance of this cannot be over-stated when we remember that cotton in manufactured form is one of our most important exports."

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Rope, White Cotton and Tarred.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for rope, tarred, hemp, about 8,000 lb., and rope, cotton white, about 11,000 lb. June 8.

Cotton Thread and Yarn.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for thread cotton in 400-yard reels, about 15,600 reels; thread cotton khaki, 240 lb.; and yarn cotton (bugle cord, red, yellow and green), 50 lb. June 4.

Wool Yarn.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for yarn wool, for bugle cords, 375 lb., in various colours. Yarn wool, white, for tarbouches, 6,000 lb. June 9.

Buttons.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for 244,000 buttons, black bone and metal, white metal, brass and gilt, for uniforms. June 4.

Rope, Italian Hemp.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for rope, Italian hemp, about 514 cwts., in eight sizes from ½ in. to 3 in. June 4.

Cast Iron Weights.—The Physical Department, Ministry of Public Works, invites tenders covering delivery to the Department's Stores in Egypt and including Customs due for the supply of 40,450 cast iron weights of various dimensions in accordance with specifications and drawings. Tenders are to be accompanied by two sample weights, one each of one oke and one rotl. June 13. (D.O.T.)

Platform Weighing Machines and Counter Scales.—The Physical Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of the following:—29 Platform weighing machines. Capacity ranging from 250 kilos. to 500 kilos. 60 Counter scales fitted with oblong tin pan for goods and flat iron pan for weights. Capacity ranging from 5 kilos. to 25 kilos. 2 Counter scales fitted with large flat copper pan for goods, the side of the pan nearest the centre of the balance being turned up, and flat iron pan for weights. Capacity 25 kilos. 75 Beranger balances of a capacity ranging from 2 to 10 kilos. Tenders for the heavy weighing machinery, *i.e.*, platform weighing machines, are to include all expenses free into the Physical Department's Stores at No. 1 Sharia el Ensha, Cairo, and those for the light weighing machinery, *i.e.*, counter scales and Beranger balances, are to be c.i.f. Alexandria or Port Said. June 17. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Lubricating Oils.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply and delivery of 200,000 kilos of lubricating oil for steam locomotives. June 9. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Weigh Bridges and Turntables.—The Railway Department of the Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 7 weigh bridges and 4 turntables for locomotives. July 1. (D.O.T.)

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Near East Markets.

IMPROVING ROUMANIAN HARVEST OUTLOOK.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 7.

In comparison with last year, the worst since the war from the agricultural point of view, and so bad that Roumania is at present reduced to importing wheat to ensure a supply of bread until the next harvest is gathered in, the forecasts for this year's harvest are more favourable. Abundant rain has fallen all over the country, and the situation, which had become rather critical owing to the prolonged drought, has now taken on a more favourable aspect.

An abundant harvest would do much to encourage agriculturalists who are greatly irritated by the high export taxes and the difficulties of transport. There is a rumour, however, as I indicated in my letter last week, that the Minister of Finance is about to abolish at least some of those measures which have up to the present produced such poor results and have had a discouraging effect upon agriculture, the main source of wealth of the country.

EGYPTIAN MARKET FOR LUBRICATING OILS.

Egypt is an important and growing market for lubricating oils of a wide range of types and qualities. According to official returns, during 1924 there were imported 11,806 metric tons of mineral lubricating oils and greases valued £E232,542, representing an increase of about 20 per cent. in quantity and almost 30 per cent. in value. The quantity increase, while greater than that of 1923 over 1922, was not in any sense abnormal or unexpected, considering Egypt's continued expansion in imports of automotive vehicles, tractors, and machinery and engines of all kinds (says an American Consular report).

Imports of lubricating oils from the United Kingdom are confined mostly to cylinder and engine oils. Egypt in 1924 took much larger quantities of lubricating oils from British possessions in the Far East than ever before, the volume rising far in advance of the importation from the United Kingdom itself, which in previous years had invariably stood second in importance to the United States. This increase is largely accounted for by certain Egyptian Government purchases. These Far Eastern oils are mostly lower-grade cylinder and engine oils.

Lubricating oils entering Egypt from Belgium and France have experienced steady declines in both volume and value in the past three years. These Belgian and French oils are mainly of the better grades for engine, cylinder and Diesel purposes, for which there seems to be a declining market in Egypt. It is estimated that almost 98 per cent. of Egypt's imported lubricating oils comes in steel drums or wooden barrels, the remaining 2 per cent. being motor oils shipped in 1 and 5 gallon tins or in imperial gallon tins from England. The usual size of drum found on the Egyptian market is the 51-gallon, while in past years much of the bulk business has been in wooden barrels of 40 gallon capacity.

The principal purchaser of lubricating oils is the Egyptian Government, whose administrations, it is estimated, require 25 per cent. of the total Egyptian consumption. The Egyptian State Railways take the largest amount, principally for locomotive and allied lubrication. The next most important Government consumer is the mechanical department of the Ministry of Public Works, which supplies lubricants to the government pumping stations throughout the country. There is also an appreciable demand, particularly for motor oils, from the mechanical transport administration, and for marine oils for the ports, lighthouses, and other marine administrations.

In general, the Egyptian market demands the usual range of lubricating oils found in similar markets. Egypt's principal consumption is of general oils for Diesel engines, coal engines, and oil engines, in the order named. These oils at present are shipped to Egypt almost always in 51-gallon drums, and generally are classified within two grades. Cylinder oils are similarly contained, and fall likewise within two quality grades.

The Egyptian consumption of motor oils requires the usual types—light, medium, heavy and extra heavy. Owing to the customs of the market, heavy oils are in greatest demand, even though the larger share of motor vehicles in the country actually require lighter oils, and notwithstanding intensive educational advertising on the part of some distributors.

The market in Egypt for strictly marine oils is estimated at but 5 per cent. of the total consumption, and is divided between general engine, cylinder, and Diesel oils.

QUOTATIONS FOR ROUMANIAN TENDERS.

The British Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that a notice was recently published in the *Bursa* to the effect that the Ministry of Finance has issued strict orders to all public departments "that in future all offers of supplies shall be quoted in lei. Foreign houses wishing to escape from the fluctuations of the leu, can quote the countervalue of the leu in a strong currency at the rate of exchange on the day offer is filed. But all payments shall be made in lei, the amount being calculated at the rate of exchange on the day of payment. Thus if the leu falls the tenderer will receive more lei, whereas if it rises he will not be able to demand more than the sum fixed on the tender form. He will thus be assured of receiving the full amount stipulated in spite of any fluctuation of the leu."

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, May 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 23); s.s. Domela for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 29).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 30).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, May 29); s.s. Perim for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Johnstone Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, June 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, May 30).

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Passenger sailing dates:—

*ELYSIA, May 29.	*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.
*CIRCASSIA, June 12.	*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*OLYMPIA, June 26.	*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
*CASTALIA, July 7.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, May 7.

The Roumanian Dispute with America.

A matter for comment in interested circles is the new tension in the diplomatic relations with the United States. It will be remembered that last summer the Government of the United States tried to exercise pressure upon Roumania on the occasion of the voting of the Mining Law. Mr. Peter A. Jay, the American Minister did all in his power at that time to conciliate the Roumanian and American points of view, and it seemed after his return from a three months' sojourn in the United States that the matter had been arranged.

Now, however, the question has been revived by a fresh Note handed to the Roumanian Government by the American Minister, summing up all the complaints of the United States, and heading the list with the non-payment of the war debts. The Note reproaches the Roumanian Government with settling certain debts of a more recent date, as for instance the liquidation of the relief bonds in England.

After the war an international social relief committee was formed, which granted to Roumania, among other countries, a credit of about three million pounds sterling This advance was for a fixed period, and was redeemable in January, 1925. It was intended to be used for the care, maintenance, and repatriation of prisoners of war. Last December a conference was held in London at which an agreement was arrived at for the liquidation of this debt over a period of 20 years.

The Roumanian reply to the American Note clearly states the distinction existing between the general inter-Allied war account, which is far from being settled, and this debt of relief bonds which was a private matter. Moreover the arrangement in regard to the relief bonds was concluded with the proviso that it should not imply an obligation to settle the Inter-Allied war debts. It is, therefore, clear that the matter of the relief bonds cannot be invoked as a precedent by the American Government.

As a matter of fact the real reason which prompted the American Note is the regrettable delay of Roumania in paying certain debts to American firms.

Although Mr. Peter A. Jay had been called to a new post in Buenos Ayres his departure has been delayed, and there is every hope that this difference, which is very unpleasant for Roumania, will be settled and that it will not affect, to Roumania's disadvantage, the present negotiations for the reconstruction of the Roumanian Railways.

The Roumanian Railways.

One of the greatest hindrances to Roumanian industry, which more than any other circumstance has stood in the way of development begun immediately after the war, has been the lamentable condition of the railways and the lack of sufficient rolling stock. The improvement of the transport conditions is one of the main pre-occupations of practically every one in the country, and it would appear that the present Government is tackling the problem seriously. M. Vintila Bratianu during his recent visit to the West of Europe began negotiations with a powerful American syndicate, which has now sent representatives to Bucharest under the direction of M. Aronovici and Mr. Bertron, the latter being a specialist in electrification matters and connected with the Pennsylvania Railway Company. The mission appears to be well informed on the situation in this country, and serious negotiations seem to be going on which have some chance of succeeding. It is stated that the American syndicate would advance sums of 50 to 100 million dollars and would make the necessary efforts for carrying out rapidly a vast scheme for the re-stocking of the railways and the creation of an electric system of junctions and lines. It is to be hoped that the negotiations will lead to an agreement at an early date, for it would form the basis of a new development in Roumanian industries.

Taxation Relief for Foreigners.

The Minister of Finance has at last been convinced by the many representations made to him during his recent journeys abroad of the ill effects of Article 64 of the Direct Taxation Law. This article imposed a supertax of 50 per cent. of the basic tax applicable to dividends on shares belonging to residents abroad. This special tax has just been suppressed for banks and limited companies. Private persons will therefore in future cash their coupons through limited companies.

CATALOGUES WANTED FOR TREBIZOND.

The British Consulate at Trebizond, Turkey-in-Asia, having recently been reopened, H.M. Consul at that post is desirous of receiving catalogues from British firms, which should be addressed to H.M. Consul, British Consulate, Trebizond, Turkey. The Consul states that the lines most likely to interest the local market are textiles of all kinds, haberdashery, fancy goods, imitation jewellery, ironmongery, hardware, hollow-ware, cutlery, tinned provisions, and certain well-known proprietary preparations such as mustard, blue, etc.

It should be borne in mind that, as a general rule, only the cheaper qualities would stand any chance of extensive patronage, both on account of the keen Italian and Central European competition and of the prevailing poverty, the purchasing power of the population having decreased to a great extent since the departure of the native Greeks and Armenians. It is a remarkable fact, however, that a certain amount of ladies' expensive dress materials and luxury articles, such as high-class scents and soaps, find a ready sale.

The surcharge levied in the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, when Customs duties are paid in paper and silver, has been increased as from May 1 from 1,000 to 1,100 per cent. Duties when paid in silver or paper currency are now therefore payable at the rate of 12 silver or paper dinars to each gold dinar of the Tariff.

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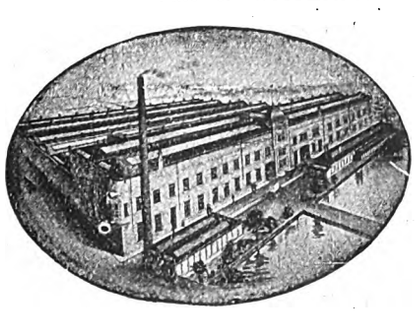

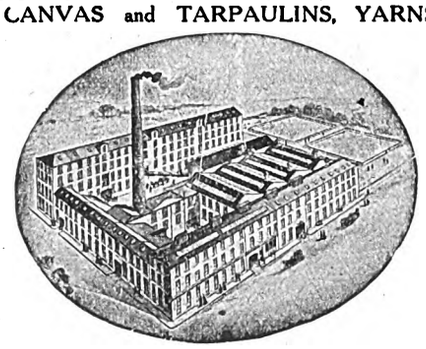

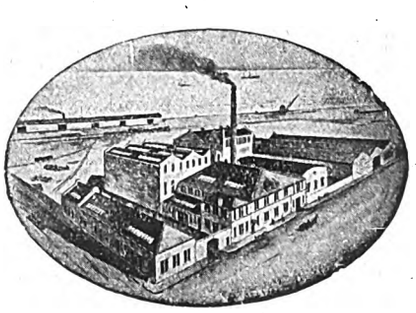

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended May 16, states:—The principal feature of interest has been a further decline in raw cotton prices. The fall in American during the last three weeks now amounts to over 1d. per lb., and must, of course, make a considerable difference to the value of stocks in hand; it is to be feared also that it may lead to a certain number of cancellations of orders, particularly in cases where delivery is late. Nevertheless the movement should, in the long run, stimulate demand and be for the benefit of the trade. Business is not expected to be brisk during a time of falling prices, but Manchester opinion appears to be that they cannot go much lower and that, provided wide fluctuations can be avoided, the moment is ripe for the development of a large buying movement.

Yarn.—The position in this section remains far from satisfactory. As is not unnatural in view of recent variations in the price of raw cotton quotations exhibit considerable irregularity. Most American spinners appear to be having a lean time at present, and some are even said to be again working at a loss. There is nothing of special interest in Egyptian spinnings, orders for which have been scarce. Shipments of yarn last month amount to 16,583,300 lb. against 17,853,400 lbs. in March and 16,082,100 lb. in April, 1924.

Cloth.—Whilst definite business placed shows little, if any, improvement, there has been a noticeable increase in the volume of inquiry. Whether this is the prelude to orders or is merely a process of keeping in touch with the market in view of recent developments, only the future can show. A certain amount of speculative buying for India has taken place, but China is still very quiet. Demand for Egypt and the Near East has been sluggish, but South America has again given good support. Shipments of piece goods last month amounted to 333,428,800 square yards against 416,619,800 square yards in March, and 377,718,400 square yards in April last year. As previously indicated the returns for the earlier months of this year reflected the activity of the closing quarter of 1924; this has now ceased to affect the returns and those for the next two or three months are likely to make a poor showing.

Raw Cotton.—The recent weakness was continued during the first three days of this week, but Thursday and Friday brought a steadier tone to the market. Conditions in the American cotton growing belt appear to be very satisfactory and, with an increased acreage, the probabilities at the moment are distinctly in favour of a good crop. There has not been much business in Egyptian, but nevertheless fluctuations have been wide and there is a fall of over 2d. per lb. on the week. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 12.36; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 30.25.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅛-97 11/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	265-276
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	289-301
Berlin	Marks to £.....	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.07½-25.09
Bomba	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 15/16-1-6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	96.20-96 65
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,01[illegible]-1,030
Budapest	Kronen to £ ...	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 13/16-1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	890.905
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2 3	4.85 7/16—.⅝
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	93 30 .70
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163¾-164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	119.00—.20
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.40-34 50
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.20-25.30

CZECHO-SLOVAK NEWS ITEMS.

Official figures issued by the Statistical Bureau show that the value of imports into Czecho-Slovakia in March was Kc 1,453,130,858, which was higher than that of either the January or February imports. There was a considerable increase in exports at Kc 1,705,508,942, the balance of trade being more favourable than the first two months. For the first quarter of the current year there is an excess of exports over imports to the value of 542 million crowns, compared with 217 millions in the same period of 1924. Imports from England increased by 20 millions as against March 1924, and by 11 millions on the February 1925 figure.

Exports of iron in March attained a value of Kc 80,848,000 compared with little over half that amount in the preceding month. The state of the iron market is therefore favourable. Inclusive of hardware, the exports in March attained a total value of 115 million crowns, compared with 87 millions in February.

The provisional commercial treaty with Denmark has been ratified by the Czecho-Slovak Cabinet and came into force on May 1. This treaty, which is subject to three months' notice, adjusts the trade relations of the two countries pending the conclusion of a definitive treaty, and is based on most-favoured-nation treatment.

The Czecho-Slovak Press Bureau states that the negotiations for a commercial treaty with Switzerland, which has been the subject of preliminary discussions for some time past, will enter into a definitive stage in the course of the present month.

The numbers are announced of 2,600 bonds of the Greek Government Five Per Cent. Loan of 1914 which have been purchased for the amortization of March 1.

Trees and shrubs, except those serving for ornament (not including roses), plants and roots of plants (except fresh flowers) and bulbs may now be imported into Roumania without special permit.

Lord Claud Hamilton, for 50 years a director and for 27 years Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway, a former Chairman of the Egyptian Hotels, and a member of the Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, left unsettled property of the gross value of £109,322 (net £98,121).

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Road, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostovoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale, Pera.

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7th INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO EXHIBITION.

The importance of the Near Eastern countries as producers of some of the world's finest tobacco needs no emphasis, nevertheless it is pleasing to note that Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Italy were represented by exhibits at Olympia this year. The exhibition opened on May 9 and continued to do excellent business until its closing day, May 16. A bold bid is being made this year to popularise the Turkish cigarette, and the slogan, "Smoke Turkish and stop coughing!" was in evidence everywhere where Macedonian leaf was exhibited. Whether the soft inpeachment will be heeded by the vast numbers addicted to Virginian brands, however, is problematical. In the space at our disposal it is not possible to give a really comprehensive review of the exhibits, and we must content ourselves with a brief survey of the more prominent stands.

The Greek Exhibit.

A very fine display of Macedonian and Thracian leaf was exhibited by the New Thracian Tobacco Trading Co. This is the first venture at the exhibition on the part of this company, which I understand has the official support of the Greek Government and the practical advice and asistance of the Greek Legation in London. The exhibit was undoubtedly excellent propaganda work, and already owing to the large number of inquiries received, steps are being taken to open London offices. As actual growers of the leaf they offer, the company has an advantage over the ordinary broker and should do well.

Turkish Ministry of Commerce.

Events are proving that when it comes to marketing its wares Turkey is not far behind Western nations, and the two stands (one of the Chamber of Commerce) at Olympia this year are evidence of this. An excellent display of leaf from the regions of Aidin and Smyrna, Brousse, Ismid, and Samsoun was exhibited, and as an initial attempt it speaks volumes for the thoroughness of the new Turkey in its business methods.

Italian Tobacco Monopoly.

One of the most imposing exhibits in the Hall was that of the Italian State Tobacco Monopoly. A wide range of tobaccos, cigars, and cigarettes was most effectively displayed. The growing importance of the tobacco industry to Italy may be demonstrated by the fact that whilst in 1915 Italy had 7,587.30 acres under tobacco cultivation, in 1922 the acreage had grown to 22,384.15, whilst to-day, about 31,000 acres are being cultivated. This first exhibit at the London Tobacco Exhibition reflects credit on all concerned.

Balkan Sobranje.

The usual feature of Bulgarian cigarette makers in native costumes was again employed this year by the makers of this well-known brand of hand-made cigarettes, and the fact that an order for many thousands of these cigarettes was booked for export to Egypt, the once recognised centre for this type of cigarette, speaks well for its future. Taking Turkish cigarettes to Egypt savours much of "coal to Newcastle," but apparently the old hand method of making cigarettes is still appreciated by the connoisseur.

Wonderful Cigarette Making and Packing Machinery.

There is little doubt that from the point of view of the public, the Exhibition would be a rather dull affair if it were not for the machinery exhibits. The cigarette making machines and packing machines, working at incredible speed, were a never-failing source of interest to all visitors. On the stand of the United Cigarette Machine Company were three of their well-known models; one of these, the "Triumph," single knife machine, turning out 800 cigarettes per minute, whilst with double knife 1,000 per minute. I understand that during a three hour test run on this machine, 215,000 cigarettes were produced—a truly wonderful performance! A recently patented improvement on this firm's machines is the cut off, which is a straight blade, thus obviating the use of belts, chains, and increased cost of circular blades. This improvement, too, is of course no small factor in the high speed maintained by "United" machines.

Some of the packing machines at work were an eye-opener to the uninitiated. The Molins Machine Co., Ltd., had a very fine exhibit, one of their machines packing the well-known "Woodbine" packets of cigarettes in packets of five at the rate of 75,000 packets per 8 hour day. Various models for different packing tasks were on view, and several makes of well-known brands packed by these machines provided an excellent testimony to their efficiency.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE DEAD SEA.

In view of the existence in the waters of the Dead Sea of certain minerals, the winning and marketing of which for commercial purposes is believed to be practicable, the Crown Agents for the Colonies, acting for and on behalf of the Government of Palestine, are prepared to receive applications for the grant of rights to undertake operations for the above purposes. Such applications must reach the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, not later than October 31, 1925, and must give an indication of the terms which applicants will propose to offer in consideration for any rights granted and of proposed arrangements for the transport of recovered minerals. Applicants would also be required to give an undetaking strictly to comply with any regulations made by the Government of Palestine in the interests of public health, and to give an undertaking strictly to comply with any regulations made by technical and financial results of their operations. An account of preliminary investigations made by the Palestine Government will very shortly be obtainable from the Crown Agents at the price of one guinea.

Work has been commenced on the new railway giving direct communication between Sofia and Bourgas.

Old or second-hand clothes are imported into Turkey to the value of £18,000 per year.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

Futures Variable.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ending May 7, state that the volume of business passing in the futures market during the past week has been small but the movement of prices has been erratic; the net changes on the week are: Sakellaridis, 4.20 dollars up for May; 1.75 dollars up for July; 0.45 dollars down for November; 0.70 dollars down for January. Ashmouni, 0.55 dollars down for June; 0.70 dollars down for August; 1.15 dollars down for October.

The Sakel market is extremely narrow; there has been no improvement in the commercial demand. The May option stands at 5 dollars over July. The open position is very small but the scarcity of tenderable qualities leaves things very much in the hands of the bulls. No dockets were issued at the first May tender. The Ashmouni market has declined in sympathy with the drop in New York prices. Spinners continue to favour this variety and purchase on moderate lines. New crops attract little commercial attention for the time being, and in the absence of support Ashmouni prices have followed American movements and on the week show a decline of over a dollar. The week's receipts amounts to Crs 9,406 against exports Crs. 102,105; the stock stands at Crs. 998,532.

Spot: Minet el Bassal though still a very quiet market, has shown a slight improvement this week in volume of business and sales amount to about 5,300 B/s of which we estimate 1,000 B/s Sakel, 3,450 B/s Uppers, 500 B/s Zagora, 200 B/s Pilion, 100 B/s Brown and 50 B/s White. Spinners have shown rather more interest in Uppers but remain indifferent towards Sakel.

Sakellarides: A small business has been done and all styles have been dealt in. The selection of good grades offering is very poor. Spot differences for Fully Good Fair and better are firm with a hardening tendency, whilst for the lower grades they have eased.

Ashmouni and Zagora: continue to absorb the bulk of the demand and have again been in fairly good request. All styles have been dealt in but the medium qualities have been in greatest favour. Spot differences are without much change except for Fully Good which is a little easier.

Pilion: has been in fair request. Spot differences are considerably dearer.

Brown: A fair business has been done. Spot differences are quoted much dearer.

White: A retail business has been done. Spot differences are generally somewhat easier.

Crop 1925: Crop news shows no great change on the week. Weather conditions are now in favour of the plant, but there is a good deal of leeway to be made up before the state of the crop can be considered normal; at the present moment the general delay in the Delta may be put at about 15 days. Sakel planting in the Delta has this year regained its popularity and probably about 75 per cent. of the whole will be under this variety. Water supply is, for the time being, sufficient.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for April reads:

Lower Egypt: On the whole sowing took place at the usual time and has been completed everywhere. The area planted in cotton seems to be equal to that of last year, except in the North of the Gharbieh where a slight increase has been reported. Germination has taken place under good conditions. The young plants are in fairly good condition but their normal development has been affected by the bad weather which was experienced from the end of March up to the middle of April. Resowing has taken place on the usual scale. Sakellaridis has been sown in a larger proportion than last year, replacing other varieties. These latter are from 5 to 30 per cent. of the area cultivated in cotton, according to district. Cut worm has caused some damage. In one district of the Gharbieh an unknown disease which attacks the leaves of the plants has been reported. Water for irrigation has been sufficient everywhere.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum: Sowing took place slightly earlier than usual and has been terminated. Resowing is unimportant except in Beni-Suef Province, where from 10 to 15 per cent. of resowing has been necessary. The area planted is greater than that of last year. The young plants look healthy but are late owing to low temperatures and cold winds at the beginning of the month. Water has been sufficient.

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The directors of the Gharbieh Land Company propose a dividend of 8 piastres per share for the past year.

The Ionian Bank has declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable June 2.

The net profits of the Steaua Francaise for 1924 amounted to 5,323,952 francs, as compared with 5,737,030 francs.

The Hyderabad (Deccan) Company recommends a final dividend of 1s. 6d. per share (less tax), making 3s. per share.

The Calcutta Tramways Company propose a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent., free of tax.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Co. and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for April amounted to 57,383 barrels.

The Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields recommends a dividend of 10 per cent. (less tax) on the "B" shares for the year 1924. The meeting will be held on June 19.

It is stated that the discussions at Frankfort between the International Sleeping Car Company and the Mitropa Company for a union of interests is nearing completion. There will be no exchange of shares.

Salines de Djibouti.—The net profits for 1924 amounted to 629,804 francs as compared with 534,102. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. as against 10 per cent. The general meeting will be held in Paris on May 26.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company for 1924 shows net profits of £E8,969, plus £E21,461 brought in, making £E30,431. The directors recommend a dividend of 9d. per share, leaving £E18,575 to be carried forward.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust recommend final dividends for the half-year to April 30 on the preferred stock at 5 per cent. per annum and on the deferred stock at 10 per cent. per annum (making 10 per cent. for the year), together with a bonus of 5 per cent.

Tabacs de Macedoine et d'Asie Mineure.—The net profits for the past year amount to 4,285,185 francs, and the available balance is 3,788,956 francs. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 20 francs, or 20 per cent., on the ordinary shares, and of 4 francs on the founders' shares.

CZECHO-SLOVAK MOTOR PLOUGH COMPETITION.

The British Commercial Secretary at Prague states that a public competition in ploughing with motor ploughs is being organised at Kromeriz by the Czech section of the Moravian Agricultural Society upon the occasion of this year's Provincial Agricultural-Industrial Exhibition, which will take place in the first half of August. Both Czecho-Slovak and foreign motors will be admitted to compete. The small types of 25 to 30 h.p. are of greatest importance to the small and middle farmers, and larger types will not be admitted to exhibition. Applications to take part in the competition should be addressed to the Czech section of the Moravian Agricultural Society (Cesky odhor zemedelske rady morevske), Brno, Zemsky, dum II. The Commercial Secretary suggests that British firms desiring to compete but who are not permanently represented in the country should appoint a local representative, if only for the purpose of this competition.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., was held on May 19 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lieut.-Col. A. St. John Cooke (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. R. Parker) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The gross receipts from the 120 combined cattle and general markets held under our concession with the Government of Egypt and including abattoirs amounted to £110,158, an increase of £5,566 over the previous year. Of these gross receipt £74,642 were derived from the cattle markets and abattoirs as compared with £66,612 during 1923.

As you are aware an important factor which largely controls the prosperity or otherwise of our cattle markets—is cattle plague. The Government Veterinary Department has by double inoculation of the animals put up a stout fight against this scourge. During 1923 we lost 1,564 cattle market days—that is to say, days when markets were closed because of the prevalence of cattle plague in the locality; during the year under review only 464 cattle market days were lost for that reason.

The gross receipts from the general markets amounted to £35,516 as compared with £37,979 in 1923. This decrease has received, and is still receiving, our very serious consideration. The country was prosperous, the cotton crop was satisfactory, the market price of cotton and the water supply abundant, and under normal conditions the company's general markets should have participated in this satisfactory state of affairs. The fellah personally takes little or no interest in politics, but is easily led, eagerly absorbing any information, however extravagant, which is imparted to him by agitators, the result being that our general markets have suffered during the disturbed political period to the extent of some of them being boycotted and entirely emptied for a short period, and generally by a great many of them being depleted of attendances, the people being induced to squat along the roads leading to and outside our enclosures and in the villages. Strong representations have been made to the proper quarters, and we are doing everything possible by persuasion and appeal to have this condition of affairs remedied.

After making provision for the Government share of profits (which has now reached the very substantial sum of £25,974 5s. 4d.), and after paying debenture interest £2,840, share capital and debenture capital sinking fund premia £3,720 16s. 6d., and carrying £4,000 to general reserve and £2,000 to a reserve for renewal of fencing, your directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1924, a total of 15 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, which will absorb £26,205, and the payment of a dividend of £20 17s. 5 71/300d. per share on the deferred shares, which will absorb £6,261 10s. 11d. After payment of these dividends a balance of £11,961 18s. 11d. will remain to be carried forward, against £11,667 17s. 1d. brought forward into the accounts from last year.

I will now say a few words regarding my recent visit to Egypt. As you are aware, in order to enable us to meet the very heavy expenses which were the result of the War, the cattle market tariffs were increased in 1920, which increase was subject to annual renewal by the Government. Since 1920 we have therefore been suffering from an uncertain factor regarding our revenue, and we have recently been negotiating with the Egyptian Government to get a settlement of this question. These negotiations have been extremely difficult, and are incomplete, and I must therefore ask you to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the board, without any further reference at this stage.

You will be glad to hear things are prosperous at the moment, that is to say there is money in the country notwithstanding the unsettled political conditions; the fellaheen have had a good cotton crop, and the results are shown in our weekly statements of receipts, which are, up to date, approximately similar to last year. We are, however, somewhat apprehensive with regard to our future cattle receipts, because the Government has decided to continue double inoculation of stock over a greater area this year, and this always means closing of markets while the inoculation is proceeding, though in the long run the company should benefit.

With regard to general markets receipts, these have shown a falling off due to the increasing number of local authorities authorised to collect Octroi taxes, and unless the proposals which we have put forward regarding this matter are favourably dealt with by the Government we must anticipate a further fall in this revenue. In addition to this I would like to call your attention to the fact that we have lost one of our two sources of advertisements revenue which assisted our last year's receipts. I must also point out that increased expenditure will be necessary in our commercial branch to maintain our position owing to increased competition in the artificial manure business as well as in other businesses in which we are interested.

I therefore want you to remember that Egypt is a country in which, although you may have one very good year, it does not follow that you will have two or three immediately in succession, and whilst there is no necessity to anticipate any very great difference between the coming year and past years, it must be realised that the one we have just come through should be considered exceptional.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and after the usual formal business the meeting ended.

CHESS.

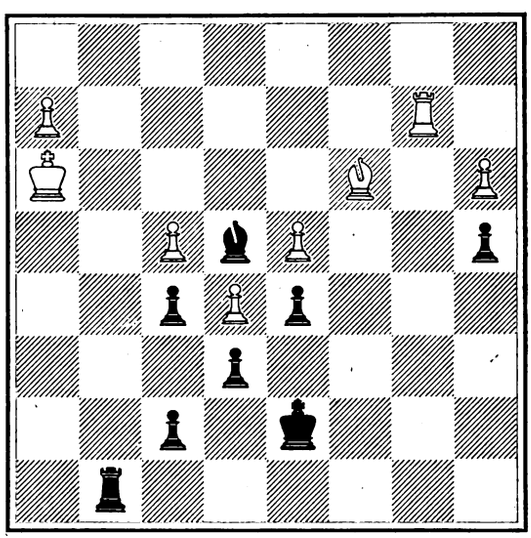
By "CARO-KANN."

Things are very quiet in the chess world at the present time, as is invariably the case in the summer season, which the majority of clubs seem to regard as impossible for serious tournaments. Personally, I have never able to understand why this point of view is taken, and I should like to see some of the leading clubs try the innovation of playing their championships in the summer. It might prove quite a success. After all, the British Championship is played in August, so there is the precedent if one is wanted. A number of clubs do run tournaments in the summer, of course, and at the City of London Chess Club the Murton Cup handicap is played, this being the chief event in London at this period.

Seeing how keenly the House of Commons takes up other games, such as cricket, lawn tennis, and golf, I am surprised that chess is not more popular at the present time among the members. It is true that the House has lost it two chief players, but among 600 odd members it should not be difficult to get up quite a strong team. Before the War the game seemed to be more popular at Westminster than it is now, and each year a team of the House used to meet Oxford and Cambridge combined during the Universities' week.

The following game (in which white receives two moves), played last week in the Murton Cup, to which I refer above, is of interest on account of the very remarkable ending:—1, P—K4; 2, P—Q4, P—K3 (1); 3, P—KB4, P—Q4; 4, P—K5, P—QB4; 5, P—B3, PxP; 6, PxP, Kt—QB3; 7, Kt—KB3, Q—Kt3; 8, B—Q3, B—Q2; 9, B—B2, K Kt—K2; 10, Kt—B3, Kt—Kt5; 11, O—O, KtxB; 12, QxKt, R—B; 13, Q—B2, P—Kt3; 14, K—R, P—KR4; 15, Kt—KR4, Kt—B4; 16, KtxKt, KtPxKt; 17, B—K3, B—B3; 18, QR—B, K—Q2; 19, R—B2, B—K2; 20, KR—B, QR—Kt; 21, P—QKt3, P—R5; 22, Kt—R4, Q—Kt4; 23, Kt—B5, BxKt; 24, RxB, Q—Q6; 25, Q—B2, QxQ(2); 26, KRxQ, P—R6; 27, P—QKt4, PxP (ch); 28, RxP, P—Kt3; 29, R—B3, B—Kt4; 30, RxR, RxR; 31, B—B2, B—B5; 32, B—Kt3, P—R4; 33, PxP, PxP; 34, K—Kt2, P—R5; 35, R—B2, R—Kt; 36, B—K (3), B—Q6; 37, R—B2, R—Kt8; 38, B—B3, B—K5 (ch); 39, K—R3, R—Kt; 40,

Position after White's 41st move, P—R3.



R—Kt2, R—Kt; 41, P—R3 (4), R—Kt5; 42, R—KB2, K—B3; 43, B—Kt4, K—Kt4; 44, B—K7, K—B5; 45, B—B4, K—Q6; 46, R—QKt2, K—K6; 47, B—Kt4, B—Q6; 48, resigns.

(1) Probably the best way to defend.

(2) Not QxB, because while Black would be left with two Rooks against the Queen, the position would be unfavourable.

(3) The only move. P—R6 was threatened, followed by R—Kt7.

(4) R checks is no good, for after K—B3 he must retreat the Rook. If he takes the Pawn there is a mate.

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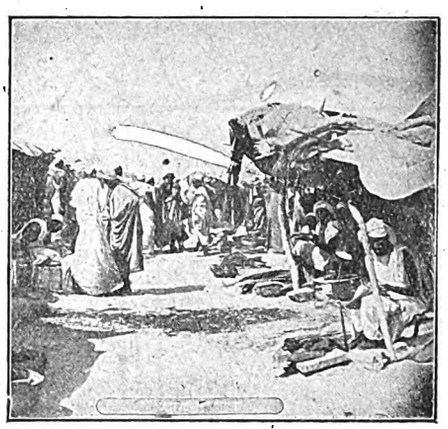

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 733.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Two Appointments.

Two important appointments announced last week (unfortunately after THE NEAR EAST had gone to press) put an end to much rumour and more speculation. It had long been known that Lord Allenby had expressed a desire to be relieved of his post in Egypt, and at any time since the beginning of the year many of those in touch with Egyptian affairs were aware that the Government's choice of a successor had already fallen on Sir George Lloyd, of whom it was confidently stated when Mr. Baldwin's present Government was formed that the former Governor of Bombay had not been given a place in the Cabinet as he was being kept in reserve for an important position overseas. The knowledge was too much for many newspapers, and from time to time announcements were made that Lord Allenby had resigned and that Sir George Lloyd had been appointed High Commissioner in Egypt. But until a few days before Mr. Chamberlain's statement in the House of Commons the report was at best premature. The Government was anxious that no opportunity should be afforded for misrepresentation in any quarter regarding the termination of Lord Allenby's tenure of the High Commissionership. As is pointed out on another page, Lord Allenby has accomplished much more than he was sent out in 1919 to perform, for the reason that in the interval Zaghloulism may be found to have shot its bolt, and Egypt, which is almost as tired of it as is Great Britain, is gradually acquiring sufficient courage to say that it wants no more of it. The presence of Lord Allenby, sympathetic but unflinching in the performance of what he considered to be his duty, has been a great asset to the public men of Egypt who have had to take in hand the work of undoing the mischief done by Zaghloul Pasha. After six years of exacting work he lays down his office in the consciousness that, although he claims only to be a soldier, both the man and the statesman in him have deserved well of his country.

Egypt and Palestine.

In Egypt a soldier has been replaced by a politician and administrator; in Palestine the place of the latter is taken by a soldier. But both in the appointment of Sir George Lloyd as High Commissioner in Egypt and in that of Field-Marshal Lord Plumer to be High Commissioner of Palestine the British Government has been well advised. The position in Egypt is brimful of anomalies; British policy, we may hope, is now fixed within clearly defined boundaries, but within those limits there is the fullest scope for personality, tact, and resourcefulness in the task of persuading the Egyptians to face the realities of the situation. In Palestine Sir Herbert Samuel has lived down the early prejudices against his appointment, has established a reputation as an able, painstaking, and scrupulously fair administrator, and has won the respect of all sections of the population. He leaves the country with the relations between Arab and Jew very much better than they have been at any other moment in the last five years, and it speaks volumes for his administration that he has made it possible for the British Government to send Lord Plumer to succeed him. In that appointment Palestine has every reason to feel flattered. If the Palestinians are minded to interpret it aright they will read in it the following message: In sending you of our best, we are confident that you are now making ready to settle down to administrative routine of your own. If friendliness and a quiet life are to be the order of the day, you will find in Lord Plumer your ideal High Commissioner; if, on the other hand, there is to be trouble, you may discover the *fortiter in re* as much in evidence as the *suaviter in modo*.

Zaghloulist Intrigues.

Last week our Cairo Correspondent referred to the circulation of reports that Zaghloul Pasha had received a pressing invitation from friends in England to visit this country, which were followed, after a suitable interval, by further reports of a more confidential nature that the object of the visit was to consult with Sir George Lloyd, the new High Commissioner. From the Egyptian point of view, the intrigue was a subtle one; it was intended to unsettle the minds of the people and to persuade them that Zaghloul Pasha would once again come out "top dog." Unfortunately in Egypt the fact that no such invitation could possibly be extended to the Zaghloul Pasha would not prevent the statement from being believed, and in the circumstances the British Government has done well to announce in a formal *communiqué* that, "His Majesty's Government has no intention of holding any negotiations or conversations regarding Egypt with Zaghloul Pasha, whether officially or unofficially, directly or indirectly." It remains to be seen whether the denial in an unusually categorical form, will overtake this particular lie. The incident is of interest as exemplifying the straits of which Zaghloulism is reduced and the lengths to which it will go to serve its own ends.

A Poor Dupe.

In a matter of this kind a man who has once held Egypt in the hollow of his hand and has been Prime Minister cuts a sorry figure. Zaghloul Pasha, it is evident, has ceased entirely to have a mind or a will of his own and has become wholly the puppet of a group of extremist followers. Some of these have been in London for several weeks, presumably to lend an atmosphere of verisimilitude to the bald intrigue over the alleged invitation. As

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on a former occasion these same agents persuaded Zaghloul Pasha that they had British Ministers in their pocket, and so prepared the way for the fiasco of the conversations with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, it would have been thought that he would not have exposed himself to a second deception. There would be much to be said for a visit to England on Zaghloul Pasha's part, if he could make use of his own intelligence and not rely on his agent's interpretations. He might learn how he strikes the average Briton to-day. Prior to the assassination of Sir Lee Stack his irresponsible agitation would, when once it was over, have been regarded with good-humoured tolerance; he had nothing to complain of in his welcome last year; but no responsible person in Great Britain can tolerate complete lack of all sense of responsibility in those who are called to high office. The next elections may show that Saad Pasha Zaghloul is still the idol of the Egyptian people, the personification to them of the highest statesmanship. If this should be the case, Anglo-Egyptian relations will become still more difficult unless he can show that he has learned what are the duties of a leader of his people in the interval since he hastily evacuated office after the murder of Sir Lee Stack. Great Britain is concerned only with the re-establishment of co-operation with Egypt, and her attitude towards Zaghloul Pasha will be determined solely by the extent to which he furthers or frustrates her purpose.

Bulgaria and the Powers.

Through the Allied Military Representatives in Sofia the Bulgarian Government has asked permission from the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris to maintain for a short period after May 31 ten thousand out of the thirteen thousand additional soldiers recently allowed it with a view to dealing with the Communist menace. The request was to be expected, as it was clear from the outset that the disbandment of all these troops within three or four weeks must destroy to a large extent the value of their enrolment as a pacifying factor for the country. The Sofia Government, however, accompanies the request with the assurance that, if the permission is not accorded, the troops will be disbanded on the stipulated date. There can be no justification for doing things by halves, and it is better that the troops should remain in being until there has been time for the elements of disruption and disorder in Bulgaria to be rounded up or permanently cowed. Colonel Kalfoff, Bulgarian Foreign Minister, will have explained to the Allied Governments on his recent visit how the Soviet organisations have taken advantage of Bulgaria's impecuniosity. The money at their disposal has proved an overwhelming temptation to many Bulgarians, who have succumbed under the duress of poverty, with the result that the work of organising the concerted outbreaks was greatly simplified. It is of interest to learn that of the two thousand people who fled from Bulgaria at the time of the *coup d'état* in 1923, twelve hundred only accepted the Zankoff Government's offer of an amnesty and have returned to Bulgaria. The remainder must be held to be for the most part irreconcilables, and it is supposed that they have provided Moscow with intermediaries in the furthering of the Communist insurrection. As a result of Colonel Kalfoff's visit to Belgrade two weeks ago, the Yugoslav Government has now agreed not to allow these exiles to remain near the Bulgarian frontier, and will have them removed to another part of Serbia. This is a step in the right direction. If before the final disbandment of the additional troops, the League of Nations can take up the question of a loan to Bulgaria, which will enable it to cope with the refugee problem and to undertake certain reproductive works, the internal situation in Bulgaria should begin to show a marked improvement, to the advantage of the whole Balkan Peninsula.

The Oecumenical Patriarchate.

Mgr. Constantine VI., the Oecumenical Patriarch who was banished by the Turks from Constantinople on the ground that he had been elected in contravention of the warning that he was an exchangeable Greek, has now formally notified the Synod of his resignation of the patriarchal throne. The interval since he retired to Salonika has been profitably employed both by the Greeks and the Turks to bring about a better understanding in regard to the Patriarchate, as a result of which the Bishops remaining in Turkey, who were liable for exchange according to Turkish interpretation of the agreement, will be freed from the menace of banishment and will be allowed to elect one of their number as the new Patriarch. It is at this moment, however, that Papa Eftim, an awkward thorn in the flesh of the Patriarchate, has emerged once more from obscurity with a petition to the Vali of Constantinople for his formal recognition as head of the Turkish Orthodox Church. There have been in the past several secessions from the Oecumenical Patriarchate, which must have regarded each movement in turn as anathema; but none, it may be imagined, will have evoked so much bitterness as the agitation of a man who is regarded at the Phanar as a renegade Greek priest. Those who do not belong to the Greek Orthodox Church are not called upon to pronounce judgment on the subject. It cannot, however, be said that Papa Eftim's record, which has been notable chiefly for violent scenes of disorder, commends him to any people who associate the Christian religion with the gospel of peace and brotherly love.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Budget.

Discussion, not to say violent controversy, still centres round the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals to levy a tax on silk, for although he has to a certain extent conceded to the wishes of Lancashire and of the West Riding—and has thereby gained a certain popularity among sections of the Press—the main opponents of the tax remain almost exactly where they first stood. Naturally, in drawing up the scale of these taxes, Mr. Churchill gave himself scope for subsequent modifications, but not even the considerable reduction which he is prepared to make will satisfy our Northern manufacturers, who, with the placidity of their kind, are unmoved and unreconciled.

To one who has no inside knowledge of these industries of artificial silk and of silk, the absolutely contradictory statements made by various industrialists are utterly confusing. The Government has on its side the testimony of various associations which believe that this taxation of an industry will lead to its greater prosperity and to the employment of more people: an estimate which many firms in Lancashire and in Yorkshire directly negate. The Government states that the duty on a pair of artificial silk stockings cannot possibly be more than a penny a pair: the Press which is opposed to the Budget simply implores its lady readers to oppose Mr. Churchill on the ground that their hose will be considerably more expensive. And around this rather ridiculous subject of contention the mere male wanders bewildered.

Without question Mr. Churchill could, if he wished, carry his proposals through the House of Commons. But it is improbable that he would do so without a further attempt to mollify the present opposition. It is being pointed out now that, having abandoned a large part of the revenue which the original scales of duty would have brought in, he is still faced with the same expensive costs of collection. That sort of thing is insuperable. What will actually happen it is impossible to foresee.

The Season.

London's season has begun, and, wonder of wonders, international opera started last week at Covent Garden. So far Strauss and Wagner, with, for the most part, German singers, have supplied the entertainment, but no performance seems yet to have been achieved that will set those who heard it talking extravagantly about it in their old age. The external splendour of pre-War opera has returned, but not its musical achievement.

Quite the old lustre, however, appears to have attended the Court presentations, and the spectacle of a mile of cars, whose occupants were waiting for the gates

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of Buckingham Palace to open, caught the imagination of the public, who waited in their thousands in the Mall.

And, most picturesque of all, there was last week the Chelsea Flower Show. London's open spaces are at their best now. At Kew Gardens, for instance, where the very ceiling of Heaven seems to have fallen to earth, the air itself is enhyacinthed.

The Earl of Ypres.

With almost melancholy frequency the captains and kings of our time depart: last week Sir John French died. One says "French," because, curiously enough, that was the name by which the organiser of those two battles round Ypres in 1914 was endeared to the public. This is hardly the time or place to estimate his military position—a position which some critics imagine to have been affected by the publication of his book "1914." It is sufficient to say, without stooping, as is the fashion, to take sides in one of the most unfortunate controversies that arose during and after the War, and which is by no means ended yet, that he considerably filled the highest position in our Army, and if he may be remembered more for Ypres than for Neuve Chapelle and Loos, one may also remember that few of the men more successful than he would have done much better in those chaotic and fateful early days.

The Foundling Hospital

The rapidity with which in these days one old London institution after another disappears is rather appalling; the latest to be threatened is one very dear to us since the eighteenth centry—the Foundling Hospital, in Bloomsbury. Plans are afoot on the part of a financial group to buy up (for £1,750,000) the Bloomsbury estate which the Hospital owns, and the Hospital's governors, following the example of Christ's Hospital, intend, apparently, to move into the country. These foundlings Londoners will miss severely. There is hardly a true Cockney who has not heard them, at Christmas time, singing their famous carols by the organ which Handel gave to them: they provided perhaps the most peaceful retreat in all the capital from the rush and roar which are daily enveloping us. The Hospital itself, one hears, will be pulled down—for it is dignified and quaint and plain—and over its ruins same great arterial road will be driven, so that the tide of modern business may be better canalised. For those to whom Waterloo Bridge means nothing will consider Captain Coram's building of even less value.

The New Lloyds.

It is pleasant, on the other hand, to chronicle the beginning of what will eventually be one of London's worthiest monuments: the new Lloyd's in Leadenhall Street. Immense architectural changes are overtaking the City, and it is a happy fact that commercial men here are for the most part engaging artists to surpervise and to control their changes. The new Lloyd's, of which the King laid the foundation stone on Saturday, is designed by Sir Edwin Cooper, and it is gratifying indeed to see that an institution which began in the eighteenth century in so typical an English fashion should in its full flowering be afforded so fit a setting.

Eros at Rest.

A temporary accommodation for Gilbert's "Eros," torn amid so much dissent from Piccadilly Circus, has been found on the Victoria Embankment. He now stands, cleaned and sprightly, on a grass plot by the bandstand in the Embankment Gardens. And when the sun shines on his outstretched limbs and wings, the pull on our pagan heartstrings is irresistible.

A University for Wessex.

To the new plan of establishing a university for Wessex—that part of Southern England which, known for centuries but to historians, is now familiar to everyone through the novels of Thomas Hardy—the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister last week gave their blessing. Wessex already has two University Colleges, one at Exeter and the other at Southampton: the proposal is to make Southampton the headquarters of the new university. Southampton's College is at present affiliated to the University of Cambridge, and it is thought that the granting to it of a full charter would serve a real purpose. The transition of colleges into universities is, of course, a tendency of our time, hitherto, however, noticeable chiefly in the North of England. Now the germ—the passion for "Education"—has come south, and one wonders what will be the effect. One's hope is that, just as the Northern universities have specialised in technical, scientific subjects, the Southern universities may specialise in the two problems on which the men of this part have always concentrated: the land and the sea.

The Hudson Memorial.

The block of marble which Epstein designed for the memorial to W. H. Hudson in Hyde Park is the topic of the moment. I have seen but photographs of this work, and, therefore, will but record the different views upon it. The attackers are the greater in number—a fact, indeed, of little consequence, for every piece of park statuary, except, I believe, the little Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, has in its time been attacked—and they base their complaint (that is, where they are not wholly ignorant, such as those who condemn equally Rodin and Epstein), on an allegation that a Jewish artist has fundamentally misunderstood an essentially English writer. This technical criticism is not worth repeating, simply because it is technical, for it is intention and design rather than their working-out which offend the public. The supporters of Epstein maintain that he has worked on antique lines, that, so far from being a modern, unclassical work, it is inspired by Gothic panels, and that its emotional significance is entirely at one with the ideas of Hudson.

It is ridiculous for those who have not seen the memorial to take sides in the matter, but many people have allowed their sympathies to form their judgment. There is no doubt, however, that real feelings have been roused by this work, feelings which will take some time to die down.

Epsom.

For all the anti-betting crusades and all the wiles of the police to stop sweepstakes, there is not much evidence this year of decline of interest in the Derby. All the world appears to be going to Epsom to-morrow, and even those who are unable to face the journey (it is idle to pretend that anyone is indispensable on Derby Day!) are consoling themselves with such doubtfully probable doubles as Cross Bow and Saucy Sue.

The number of men who have but one bet in the year—on the Derby—is perfectly amazing. Perhaps it is the inevitable peeping out of old Adam in otherwise stainless

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lives. And the perplexing fact about these men is that they always seem to win.

The Art of Light.

What is claimed as a new form of art was given an exposition in London last week, when Mr. Thomas Wilfred, a Dane of American nationality, brought his "clavilux" to Queen's Hall. This instrument is keyed, playing on light instead of sound. It throws on to a screen, forms, movements, and colours—which, indeed, its inventor claimed as corresponding to melody, harmony, and rhythm in music. The form and the motion are the essential part of this art, for though colour may be the most superficially attractive, it is the least essential component.

Quite obviously this instrument is a considerable development upon anything that we have had before—including Rimington's "colour-organ." Not quite so obviously it is the herald of something infinitely big and grand. It is useless to pretend that one was convinced in an afternoon; the novelty was too great, the genuine æsthetic pleasures derived were too fleeting. In a piece called "A Tale of the Orient," for example (which seemed to try to do by clavilux what Rimsky-Korsakoff in "Sheherazade" has done by orchestra), the perfectly lovely blues and flames merged too soon into muddy and un-faëry colours. On the whole, the instrument was more effective in realistic endeavours than in purely abstract representations: sunset on a Chicago factory, for instance, was masterfully managed, whereas studies in assymetrical form seemed to be purely academic.

As a supplement to theatrical work, one could see an immediate future for the clavilux, and surely a bigger future will eventually be its lot. But not yet. It cannot become popular, or even readily comprehensive, until composers have written for it, until, that is, the weavers of dreams have hit upon a consistent material, and not, as is the present case, still have to work on stuff of which only a few threads can thrill.

Peeresses in the Lords.

Lord Astor was last week defeated in his attempt to enable peeresses to sit and to vote in the House of Lords. Certainly the opposition to him was not very serious, but it was just sufficient. The speeches made on the subject were rather delightful, the gallant ungallantry of the leaders of the opposition being most effective. Of course, those who supported the Bill affirm that its passage is only a question of time, but they overlook the fact that possibly even fewer women may by that time, whenever it may be—some putting it so far forward as the Reform of the House of Lords—be taking interest in politics than is the case now.

The Minister as Journalist.

Two blacks do not make a white, and the fact that a Cabinet Minister of the Labour Government had, when in office, written articles for newspapers, hardly took the force out of Mr. Johnston's remarks last week in the House of Commons upon the journalistic activity at the present time of the Earl of Birkenhead. Mr. Baldwin, whose personal attitude in the matter it is not difficult to guess, had to reply to the Labour Member's question that it was a complex problem that demanded consideration. One can hardly agree with this. After all, Mr. Bonar Law's Cabinet actually recorded a decision that Ministers in office should not act in their leisure time (which is theoretically denied to them) as journalists. Such a practice makes the doctrine of collective responsibility of the Cabinet extremely difficult to maintain.

Alien Agitators.

If the expression of fears, menaces, and so on, could make our flesh tremble, assuredly the occasional speeches of the Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, would leave us in mortal terror. Up and down the whole effort of human endeavour—religious, political, industrial, social—he ranges, endeavouring to convince us of the presence of the Bolshevist in our midst. The other day he even spoke of the possibility of the assuming by the Government of "effective new powers" to deal with the "great menace" of alien agitators in the British community. Everyone, of course, knew whom he meant; but he has not, so far as one knows, yet been called an anti-Semite. Possibly that is because it is so very difficult to take Sir Joynson-Hicks seriously. He never distinguishes, when talking of the menace to our society, between blood-thirsty Communists, Atheists, Anglo-Catholics, Republicans, and other objects of his intense hatred. Until the Home Secretary concentrates a little more, and forgoes the differences of his animosities, the lot of the alien agitator in this country will continue, one imagines, to be moderately comfortable.

ALTER EGO.

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.

SERBO-ALBANIAN FRONTIER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have been much impressed by the communication of Mr. Malcolm Burr. There is, of course, a considerable amount of wisdom in the remarks in his letter of the late General Phillips, with whom I can claim friendship in the past, when he said that when Britons go to the Balkans they always seem to become affected by one particular nation to the exclusion of all others. He concludes his letter with the suggestion that the Balkan folk have a quality which might well be imitated in this country, namely that they should "mind their own business."

All this is wisdom, but I should like to point out that the Serbian treatment of Montenegro is very strongly and very seriously the business of this country, unlike other domestic questions which affect Serbia, which have produced a condition of disturbance almost amounting to anarchy in that country. The case of Montenegro is an international matter. There is nothing whatever in the records of any of the States of Europe that may be said to have legally recognised the annexation of the independent State of Montenegro by Serbia. The bogus Assembly at Podgoritza and the military occupation of Montenegro are and can be nothing less than an outrage against all International Law, and there is no possible defence that can legally be put up in this case, and the Government of the time in this country, for purposes of our own which are acknowledged to have been purely opportunist, "looked the other way," and permitted this international outrage to be inflicted upon this gallant people.

It is clearly our bounden duty now to endeavour to make amends for this wrong, and by some means or other, fraternal if possible, to bring about the pacification of these wretched people who are suffering. The action of this country and all other countries in the face of written and spoken promises of freedom that were utterly disregarded at the expiration of the Great War (in which Montenegro was our brave and gallant Ally) is a quite different proposition from any other question that may interest us, and which is justly claimed by the Serbians, to be purely "domestic."—I am, etc.,

ALEX DEVINE.

The Iraq Government has offered ten year contracts to nearly seventy British officials.

Roumanian representatives have arrived in Budapest to negotiate with the Hungarian Government in regard to general commercial questions and matters relating to customs tariffs.

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The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.

Sofia, May 13.

Trial of the Cathedral Conspirators.

On Saturday, May 2, a military court-martial, composed of three officers, began the trial of ten Bulgarians alleged to have been members of the Central Communist and Extreme Agrarian Committees, and in addition to have planned the outrage in the Sveti Kral Cathedral. Only five of the accused persons were present. Of the remainder, the former deputy Grantcharoff is dead, the former deputies Petrini and Kossovsky are believed to be dead, while Dimitroff and Abajieff have escaped.

Those actually present were Marco Friedmann, the sacristan of the Cathedral, Zadgorsky, the ex-Officer Koeff, and two youths named Daskaloff and Kambouroff. Friedmann, who is regarded as being one of the principal conspirators, was accused of being a member of the secret Communist Committee of ten which planned outrages and assassinations. Zadgorsky was accused of having assisted Captain Minkoff and others in entering the Cathedral with the purpose of placing explosive matter in position. Koeff was accused of having knowingly hidden Captain Minkoff after the Cathedral crime had been perpetrated. Daskaloff and Kambouroff were accused of having harboured the sacristan.

Except Koeff, all pleaded guilty, although Friedmann denied having taken any part in the Cathedral outrage. Two officers defended the accused, but Friedmann, who is a lawyer, conducted his defence in person. Ten days were occupied in hearing evidence, and more than forty witnesses were called. The public was admitted, but on several occasions, in the interest of justice, the court was closed. The prosecution demanded that the death sentence be passed on all the accused excepting Kambouroff. In his final defence Friedmann asked to be shot, and not hanged, in the event of being found guilty.

On the evening of Monday, May 4, the court-martial rendered its verdict, passing sentences of capital punishment on Friedmann, Koeff, Zadgorsky, Grantcharoff, Petrini, Kossovsy, Dimitroff, and Abajieff. All were condemned to be hanged in a public place, except Zadgorsky and Abajieff. Sentences of six and three years' imprisonment respectively were inflicted on Daskaloff and Kambouroff. The verdict did not differ very greatly from what had been anticipated, and the prisoners heard the sentences with composure. Their execution will not take place for several days, as they are entitled to appeal to the military court of Cassation. Much speculation has been indulged in regarding the place of execution, and one time it was thought that they might be hanged outside the wrecked Cathedral. It is, however, probable that the courtyard of the central prison or the Sofia barracks will be the place chosen.

The Situation.

Since my last letter there have not been any events of outstanding importance. The search after criminals continues, whilst the judicial authorities are busily engaged in sifting the mass of evidence which has been collected from arrested persons throughout Bulgaria. It would appear that at the present moment some 2,500 people are still under arrest. The majority are from Sofia and the districts of Vratza and Shumen. Further courts-martial will take place, and amongst those due for early trial are the Frenchman Eugène Leger, the Agrarian Perchanlieff, and Madame Nicolova, who is accused of having hidden Friedmann and other plotters. Curfew is still fixed at 9 a.m., but on May 15 theatres, cinemas, and so on will be reopened, but it is understood that their performances must take place during the day.

The Little Entente Conference.

Bulgaria has followed with much interest the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Czecho-Slovakia which has just been held at Bucharest. As was to be expected, the situation in Bulgaria was discussed by the three statesmen. It would seem that Roumania was willing to allow Bulgaria to maintain for the time being the extra soldiers recently recruited. Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia held a different opinion, and it is believed that their views have prevailed. At the same time the Little Entente Powers appear to have realised that the Bolshevist danger in Bulgaria was not quite such a bogey as has hitherto been thought. On the whole Bulgaria would not seem to have any reason to be dissatisfied with the outcome of the Little Entente Conference, as there were few people who cherished the belief that Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia would agree to the extra soldiers being maintained.

M. Kalfoff's Journey.

With the desire of acquainting the principal European Powers regarding the actual situation in Bulgaria, the Foreign Minister, M. Kalfoff, has left for Paris, London, and Rome. On his way he stopped at Belgrade and had an interview with M. Nintchitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister. It is as yet too early to say what results the voyage of M. Kalfoff can give, but it is more than probable that they will not amount to very much. Apparently both the Big and Little Ententes have already made up their minds as to what the internal position of Bulgaria is, and whilst viewing sympathetically the efforts of the Bulgarian Government to crush Communism, do not intend to make any concessions regarding the Army. Whether the Allies' attitude is justified or not is another question, but presumably it is founded on a serious and detailed study of the situation. It is to be hoped that the Allies' optimism, for this is the real word, regarding Bulgaria's internal situation, will be realised. If it is not, a good deal of responsibility will fall on certain shoulders.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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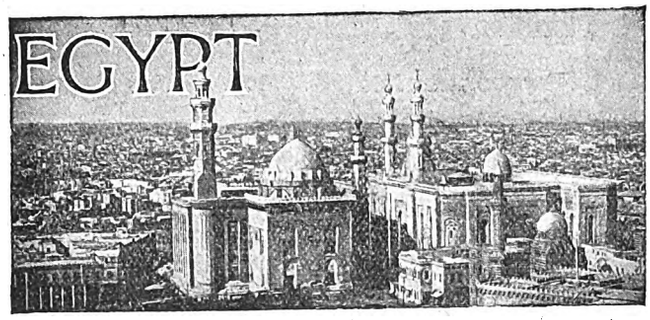

Cairo, May 16.

The Egyptian Tribute.

A lively interest has been taken during the past week in the Egyptian Tribute case, which was called before the Mixed Courts for the first time on Monday last, and in which Messrs. Rothschilds presented their pleadings this morning.

The case before the Courts consists of four actions, two brought by private holders of the Tribute Loans and two by Messrs. Rothschilds as trustees for the issues, all the writs being joined by consent of all parties. The sensation of the two hearings has been the firm attitude adopted by the Court towards the repeated applications for adjournment made on behalf of the Government and the persistence of the latter in not producing from its Archives, or giving any explanation for the absence of, any of the documents for which the plaintiffs have called.

Maitre Rosetti of the State Legal Department at the original sittings applied for an adjournment of three months to enable him to complete his final arguments. This was objected to by Maitres Chalom and Mansi, representing the private litigants, who asked for an immediate hearing, and by Maitres Pezzi and Alexander for Messrs. Rothschilds, who requested that the case should be heard before vacation.

After long deliberation the Court rejected the application for adjournment and ordered counsel to plead forthwith, the explanation being of course, that the decision taken by the Egyptian Parliament, which had provoked this action, had been made nearly a year ago and that the Legal Advisers of the Government must already at that time have prepared all their arguments in justification of the advice which they then gave, and in any case had ample time to work up their case. Again, this morning Maitre Rosetti applied for an adjournment on the plea that he had not had time to study certain memoranda which Rothschilds had filed. The application was again rejected on the ground that the memoranda merely referred to documents already in the Archives of the Egyptian Government.

It is true that the Government's legal representative declared that he had been so far unaware of the existence in the Government Archives of the documents and correspondence on which are based Rothschilds' memoranda refuting with conclusive proof Egypt's assertion that she derived no advantage from the conversion of the Loans and the engagements into which she entered, and establishing that it was clearly understood at the time that she gave a sixty-year guarantee for the payment of the service of these Tribute Loans. That is, however, the fault of the Government, and can in nowise justify keeping the bondholders in further suspense for the decision of the Courts. Clearly the latter has been fully justified in refusing to sanction any further delay.

That no one on the side of the Egyptian Government took at the time the trouble thoroughly to probe the genesis of the Loans which it was proposed to repudiate, and that since that time it should have been left to the bondholders to compel disclosure of importantly relevant correspondence in the possession of the Government, is nothing short of a scandal, particularly in the light of the nature of the documents now disclosed. At the same time it affords an instructive illustration of the manner in which State questions of the highest order were handled under the late régime. Indeed, when one comes to recall all that has gone on in the recent past in the matter of legal and administrative cases the impression one gets is that the one dominant desire at the time on the part of the law officers of the Egyptian Government was to tender advice which they knew would please the Wafd and would serve the immediate political objects which it had in view.

Egyptian Officials' Bad Advice.

We have still present in our minds the regrettable Anthony case, where facts were deliberately suppressed or distorted and abominable insinuations were made solely with the object of furthering what the Wafd had in mind. In the light of the findings of the Special Council of Discipline that subsequently heard Mr. Anthony the manner in which this utterly baseless indictment was worked up against one of the oldest and most esteemed British officials in the service constitutes nothing short of a shameful attempt to subordinate considerations of justice and fair play to the furtherance of personal animosities and political interests.

Throughout that *cause célèbre*, which all responsible-minded Egyptians regard as a grave stain on their honour, the guiding hand was that of the head of the State Legal Department, an Italian who has also—is this a mere coincidence?—been the dominant spirit in the question of the repudiation of the Egyptian Tribute Loans. Instructed Egyptian opinion has been amazed to find that after a verdict like the one given in the Anthony case the man responsible for such a disgraceful indictment should have been allowed to retain his post, and it is now asking whether the high-placed favour which is known to be shown in this country to-day towards Italian objects and Italian persons is to continue in this manner to the detriment of Egypt's interests and Egypt's good name.

The more the case develops the more blameworthy appears the part of all officially concerned in this unfortunate affair. That the repudiation of liability should ever have been sanctioned by the Government and its Advisers in the manner in which it was done was bad enough, but eleven months after the decision to suspend payment the representative of the Egyptian Government should declare in open Court that he does not yet know what documents relating to these Loans are in his Archives reveals a state of affairs and a mental outlook that are by no means to the credit of a Government which, like the Egyptian Government, claims to rank among the honourable nations of the world. Bad as was the effect of the suspension decided a year ago on the mind of the financial world that of the attitude in which the Egyptian Government has persisted, particularly during the past month or two, has been such as completely to discredit Egypt on all the money markets and make it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, for her henceforward to obtain the slightest accommodation without such guarantees as will prevent any risk of a repetition of the evasion which she has attempted in this instance. . . .

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GREECE.

Athens, May 14.

Graeco-Yugoslav Negotiations.

The negotiations for the renewal of the Graeco-Yugoslav Alliance continue with slight hindrances, There can be little doubt that the Yugoslavs have set their minds on securing a very firm footing in Salonika, and that their whole attention is concentrated on the Free Zone there. To secure this footing they are holding over the heads of the Greeks various demands, which, however, have not yet actually been brought forward. First, there is the demand on the Greeks to recognise the Serbian nationality of some 300,000 Slavophone people in Western Macedonia. These people speak a Slav dialect more akin to Bulgar than to Serb, and in all probability they would, if allowed to express their own wishes, vote for Bulgarian nationality—in fact they comprise those Bulgarians who have refused to take advantage of the chance of migrating to Bulgaria, allowed by the Treaty of Neuilly. However, their opinions will not be asked. Secondly, there is a demand to be made for the doubling of the Salonika-Ghevgeli line and for the working of it by Yugoslav officials. It may be remembered in this connection that Serbians recently purchased a considerable quantity of shares in the French Company owning the line. A Frenchman is now here representing a large block of shares which he wishes to sell to the Greek Government, thus enabling them to meet the Yugoslavs on an equal footing—but at a price! But these negotiations have fallen through, as the Athens Government have placed too many restrictions on the sale, and probably the Serbians will get the shares in the end. Yugoslavia is, in fact, ready to make Greece pay very heavily for a removal of the Alliance, which will place Yugoslavia in a distinctly advantageous position in Salonika when the final liquidation comes.

May Day.

May Day passed off quite quietly, which was rather unexpected. Communism has made great efforts in the last year, since the coming of the Soviet Legation, and it is an open secret that in the scheme of the Bulgarian attempt at revolution, Greek Communism was to play its part by raising subsidiary trouble and thus preventing the bourgeois Greek Government from going to the aid of the bourgeois Zankoff. Consequently the projected Labour demonstration in Athens was forbidden. It took place at Rendi, outside Athens, and all went off very peacefully. This would seem to show, what is becoming clear from other sources, that Communism has no hold whatever in Old Greece—whatever it may do in Macedonia.

Athens and American Archæology.

The papers announce that in response to the request of Mr. Capps, President of the United Universities of America and ex-American Minister to Athens, the Ministry of Education has signed an agreement granting the American Archæological School here the sole right of making excavations over a large portion of the town of Athens itself. The excavations will begin with the Old Market Place, and the area will roughly include all the district lying between a line drawn from the Theseum past the Library of Hadrian and on the Theatre of Dionysos on the one hand, and the Acropolis itself on the other hand, i.e., all the quarter consisting of small streets lying on the N.E. and S.E. slopes of the Acropolis, and which formed the heart of Old Athens. The cost is estimated at 50 millions, that is about £200,000; the Greek Government will pay the value of the land expropriated while the Americans pay the value of the houses and the rest. It is considered the work will last some 30 years. It is hoped the results will be published *pari passu*.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, May 4.

Cyprus a Colony.

Those who know Cyprus may quite well imagine with what feelings the proclamation of the island as a Colony has been received by the different communities. The Turkish element, which always acquiesced loyally in the provisions of the Anglo-Turkish Convention while for 36 years Britain administered Cyprus for the Porte and since, is well pleased. A considerable number of Turks have left the island to occupy places in Asia Minor vacated by dispossessed Greeks and others; but matters have changed but little since Britain annexed Cyprus, though the Ottoman Community has divisions of its own. As regards the Greek majority of the population, the party for "Union with Greece," of course, could do nothing but express their dissatisfaction with what seems to place still further beyond their reach the goal of their aspirations; although they have been so plainly told—in 1923—that the subject which has been presented by so many deputations must be considered as closed.

The reading of the Proclamation by the Commissioner of Nicosia took place on May 1, in the square near the Law Courts, the heads of government departments, and representatives of Public Bodies, the Clergy, and many others being present. A detachment of British troops, and the native police were drawn up. After the reading, the Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, handed to the Commissioner a protest addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing the deepest regret of the Greek people and their protest, on the occasion of this disappointment of their "ethnic rights." He requested that this might be forwarded to the Minister.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held the same day: during which the leading Turkish Member, Irfan Bey, stated that the political status of the island had been raised by H.M. the King. Everyone valued and appreciated this step, and he had no doubt that it would conduce to the welfare of Cyprus in the near future. The people would not forget the work His Excellency had already done for Cyprus (in which he was supported by the Legislative Council), and they were fortunate in having His Excellency at the head of the Government, and were confident that they would continue to enjoy his protection and care. The speaker was supported by Hami Bey, and Eyoub Bey. After them M. Photiades, one of the few non-Moslem members present, stated that the people of Cyprus rejoiced to celebrate the occasion, and he hoped that the change would lead to greater progress. He expressed their hope that His Excellency would long remain in the island, for the sake of its progress. The Governor briefly expressed his thanks to the Council.

The Commission appointing Sir Malcolm Stevenson, K.C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander in Chief is dated March 11. The Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor and C. in C. are dated March 10, and occupy over six pages of an extraordinary issue of the Cyprus *Official Gazette*: and the instructions to the Governor bear the same date. An Order in Council which provides for the establishment of the new Legislative Council is dated February 6 last, and occupies thirteen pages of the *Gazette*.

OBITUARY.

M. Alexandre Marghiloman, a former Roumanian Premier and leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, died on May 10 at Albatros, Buzau. M. Marghiloman was 72 years of age and had had a prolonged illness.

Mr. Richard Seager, the well-known American archæologist and explorer, was taken suddenly ill on a voyage from Egypt to Crete, was landed at Candia unconscious, and died there on May 12.

Lieut-Colonel Charles Augustus Muspratt-Williams, C.I.E., late Indian Army, died at Eastbourne from pneumonia on May 6, aged 63. A son of General Jackson Muspratt-Williams, he was early attracted to the constructional side of Army work in India, and in 1887, he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of the three large workshops of the Bombay Army—the Gunpowder Factory and Small Arms Factory at Kirkee, near Poona, and the Gun Carriage Factory, Bombay. In 1880 he was transferred in the same capacity to the Gunpowder Factory at Ishapur, and for six years from 1892 he was the Superintendent. Six years later he was promoted to the headquarters of Government as Chief Inspector of Explosives. This appointment he he[illegible] for 22 years.

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ORIENTAL COMPOSITIONS.

M. Haig Gudenian, the Armenian violinist and composer, gave a second concert of his Oriental compositions in London recently, devoting most of his programme to more considerable things than those which last he played, for he called in, not only the piano, but a 'cello and extra violin as well.

It is doubtful whether this composer has yet convinced London, though certainly he has become "the rage.' His idiom is novel and unostentatious; and unadvertised strangeness does not swiftly conquer our musical coteries. Possibly it is the enforced compromise between the use of western instruments for the conveyance of eastern sounds that stands as a temporary barrier to M. Gudenian's wider recognition.

Of the compositions which he played on May 15, probably the "Dance of the Dervishes," "Grandmother's Lullaby," "The Beggar," and "Pastorale" were most easily comprehensible. It was natural that "The Spinner's Lament" and "Monotonic" (Wilderness of Savages) should possess the melancholy reiteration and the kind of universal blankness of the East, but this inevitability could hardly inhibit the feeling of wearisomeness. In the "Dance of the Dervishes," however (admirably set out for piano, violin, and 'cello), it was very different. The various dervishes were suggested with amazing faithfulness, and the culmination—the final whirl and exhaustion of the *mevlevi*—was powerfully conjured up. This indeed was descriptive writing of the first sort. The other three violin solos that I have mentioned were also descriptive pieces. The first, unaccompanied, was of a charming nature, the main themes being balanced by queer little answering cries. "Pastorale" is just a story of rustic maid and youth playing at love: it is a subject which, one imagines, does not vary much in whatever part of the world it be indulged. "The Beggar" is much more definitely Oriental, from the 'cello-like use of the fiddle to which the beggar puts his instrument to the religious counsel with which he receives alms from the town's merry-makers.

The biggest thing of the evening—"The Prophet Daniel"—was, to my mind at least, too diffuse to be a success. It purports to represent the atmosphere of a luxurious Babylonian palace, to which in turn the monarch, a dancer, and the Prophet Daniel arrive. The Prophet's exhortation to the King reminds him that spiritual things are more lasting than the things of this world—advice which, strangely enough in this pre-Christian period, is uttered in phrases of Armenian Church music. From this brief description it will be seen that there is little sense of structure, as we conceive it, in the work: it wanders on from one picture to another, finding in each sufficient for thought, and feeling, it would appear, no need of correlation. Such meanderings, guided and tempered as they may be by M. Gudenian's practised and skilful hand, do not commend themselves readily to the more purposeful and compact West. And more or less the same criticism must be applied to "An Oriental Wedding," for which, in addition, percussion instruments were supplied.

It is only fair, in recording one's sense of the disjunction of these major pieces, to remember that they suffered badly from insufficient rehearsal, and that, perfectly played, they would surely sound more convincing. M. Gudenian is doing most important musical work, and it is imperative that what he has to contribute should be brought to us in its worthiest form. K. W.

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THE DON COSSACK CHOIR.

The Don Cossack Choir, who during the past few years have been familiar to lovers of music in the Balkans, created something of a furore when they appeared in London, at the Æolian Hall, on May 15. This choir, which consists of thirty-six men, conducted by M. Serge Yaroff, is a remnant of Denikin's and Wrangel's anti-Bolshevist forces. On the triumphs of Bolshevist arms, they were transported, with the rest of the Wrangel Army, first to Lemnos, then to Constantinople, and then to Sofia. In the Bulgarian capital they became attached to the service of the Cathedral, and for two years worked as a Church Choir. Nearly two years ago they went to Zagreb, in Yugoslavia, and thence to Vienna. Fame was already theirs, and their subsequent journeyings through Austria and Czechoslovakia and Switzerland and Italy but confirmed their reputation.

In coming to England, they are asking to be judged by the highest standards—for England has in choral singing one of her all too few claims to musical distinction. It may be granted at once that in certain particulars this Don Cossack Choir outdoes any of our organisations;—its discipline is perfect, its memory and sense of pitch wonderful, its basses a marvel, its volume a revelation. Upon it the conductor can play as upon an orchestra, and indeed in the "attack" upon notes, the voices, particularly the basses, were specifically made to resemble a stringed instrument. Practically speaking, there are no technical demands which the conductor makes upon it that cannot be at once answered. And its rhythm—which included much of that 5-4 and 7-4 time—is, simply, astonishing.

The programme was cunningly devised to show the choir's potentialities. It began with three religious songs, two by Bortniansky and one by Tchaikoffsky, continued with fairly well-known folk-songs (including the unhappily inevitable "Ai oukhniam," the "points" of which were unduly exploited and dramatised), and ending with some very cheerful traditional songs. The whole concert was sung with immense voice and tidiness, and there is no doubt of the thoroughness and the sincerity of the entire performance.

Let us, therefore, get our complaints over quickly. First, one would put the violent changes from *ff* to *pp*., which no text could justify, and which so soon became monotonous. Next with the tone-quality (containing a distressing *vibrato*) of the choir in strenuous passages: it tended to sound forced and reedy, although the forced nature of it was apparent and not real. And then was the use of devices ("stunts," we call them) such as *bouche fermée*, the *sforzando* attack, and so on. All these of course have a genuine place, but unless sparingly used they become wearisome.

Outside these things, however, the choir sang inspiringly. No one could possibly forget the glorious, unbelievable majesty of those rolling basses, or the interweaving and certainty of the harmonies, both supporting and decorative. One could understand, hearing the powers of these basses, how it was that the double-bass became so popular an instrument in Russia; for it was upon them, in particular, that M. Yaroff was able to play as if they were an instrument. Without question the choir merited the deep impression that it made in London. One can almost comprehend how despair at its departure made Sofia burst into revolution! K. W.

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THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indian Trade Report.

Commenting on the "Review of the Trade of India in 1923-24," *Commerce* (Calcutta) says the most striking feature is the increase, by 50 crores of rupees (about 37 millions sterling, at the present rate of exchange) of the export trade: of which no less than 27 crores (about 20 millions) is attributed to the failure of the American cotton crop and to the large exports of raw cotton, at high prices, which resulted. The Director General considers that complete trade recovery in India is retarded, in the main, by two factors—the unsettled European political conditions and the high prices that Indian importers secure for their goods in comparison with the prices that the Indian export trade can command. According to the report, India, in 1923-4, paid ninety per cent. more than in 1913-14 for her imports while receiving only 45 per cent. more from her exports. This is due to the expenses of manufacturing goods having increased, mainly on account of high labour charges, disproportionately to the increase in the cost of raw materials: a condition of affairs common to all primarily agricultural countries, and one that cannot be rectified by any economic formula. The cost of labour and the cost of raw materials are governed by widely different factors and to reconcile these at any given time is a task almost beyond the ability of man. On the whole the report is optimistic and suggests that the period of violent fluctuations has passed, and that "sober and steady alterations" may be expected in future.

The *Englishman* says that, reckoned on the values declared in 1913-14, despite the enormous apparent increase in value since that year, exports during 1923-24 were practically the same as ten years ago; while imports are only about two-thirds of the 1913-14 figures: India's position being thus almost exactly the reverse of that of Great Britain. The wheat statistics shed an interesting sidelight on the change in the economic status of the inhabitants of a great area. In 1913-14 the production of wheat in India was 8,367,000 tons and the export 1,203,000. In 1923-24, while the wheat output had risen to 9,747,000 tons, export —in a year when there was no restriction on exports—had fallen to 638,000 tons. In other words, there was a very definite increase in the local consumption of wheat, due to a rise in the standard of living among the population. "More than any province in India, the Punjab played a full part in the War. Hundreds of thousands of recruits joined the army, and the people as a whole received extremely good wages and good prices for their products. In a microcosm, as it were, the Punjab reproduced the conditions in Britain, and to some extent the results have been similar."

The Report mentions that the production of yarn in Indian mills is the lowest on record—608 million pounds as compared with 706 million in 1922-23. Owing to their inability to compete with the cheaper Japanese yarns, Indian mills were hampered by an accumulation of stocks. The total weight of raw and manufactured jute exported increased by 12½ per cent. but the value showed a fall of 1 per cent.

The Hide Trade.

The *Statesman* (Calcutta) says that, of all forms of Protection, the least logical is that of imposing an export duty. In the rare instances where a country enjoys a world monopoly of a particular product, an export duty may yield revenue without reducing business, but such a position scarcely ever exists. When the export duty on hides was imposed in 1919, the Minister responsible stated that India monopolised the hide and skin trade of the world. That this was a complete miscalculation has now been admitted by the present commerce member of the Government of India, who, in the Legislative Assembly in 1923, characterised "this unfortunate export duty" as "one of the worst mistakes that the Government of India ever made." Its result has been that, from the pre-War position of the largest exporter of hides in the world, India has fallen to that of a secondary market, and the world's prices are now dictated from other quarters. India's export of raw hides and skins in 1913-14 was 80,000 tons; in 1919-20, the year in which the export duty (15 per cent, ad valorem) was imposed, it was 89,000 tons; and, in the following year it dropped to 30,000 tons. This was its low water mark, for it rose, the next year, to 47,000 tons, a figure at which it has remained fairly constant ever since, in spite of the reduction, in 1923, of the duty to five per cent. But, even so, this is little more than half of the pre-duty figure, so that it appears that the evil effect of its imposition is permanent.

The Wheat Crop.

The Commercial Intelligence Department's latest wheat forecast for 1924-25 gives the total area as 31,883,000 acres, an increase of four per cent. as compared with the acreage (30,731,000) a year ago; but the total yield is estimated at 8,631,000 tons as against 10,051,000 tons a year ago, or a decrease of fourteen per cent. The general condition of the crop is reported as fair. In the Punjab, where more than a third of the crop is grown, the area reported is 11,263,000 acres, an increase of two per cent. over last year, but the estimated total yield shows a decrease of no less than 28 per cent.—2,927,000 tons as against 4,076,000 tons a year ago.

Railway Projects.

The plans for the Calcutta Chord Railway project have now been completed and submitted for sanction to the Secretary of State. The scheme provides for direct communication between the East Indian Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway, while the bridge over the Hoogly, about five miles above the Howrah Bridge, which forms part of the scheme, will also give direct connection with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The new Chord line will take off near Bally Station, six miles from Howrah, which promises, says the *Englishman*, to become the Clapham Junction of Calcutta. It is primarily intended for coal traffic to the docks, but the plans contain recommendations for its ultimate use for communication between the city and suburbs as well. It will shorten by 45 miles the route by which the Bengal-Nagpur Railway coal traffic reaches the docks and will do away with the present very expensive method of the waggon ferry—the present methods, besides being most uneconomical, would certainly prove entirely inadequate when the new King George's docks are constructed with the consequent inevitable increase in the traffic. The new Chord line will be capable of carrying all the traffic likely to be offering for many years to come.

A scheme for the construction of an overhead electric railway from Sealdah Station to the business centre of Calcutta, to be carried on a viaduct above street level, is also now under the consideration of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

The North Western Railway Strike.

The Agent reported, on April 28, that strikers had begun to return to work in the Lahore workshops. Owing to new recruitment, the position in Lahore was so much improved that a running staff was available to replace absentees at other places. All the train services had been fully maintained: and the traffic returns show that, during the first eighteen days of April, in spite of the number of men who absented themselves from duty, the Railway, so far from having to restrict traffic, moved 21 per cent. more passengers and 29 per cent more loaded waggons than in the corresponding period last year. The original cause of the strike was the dismissal, after repeated warnings, of a fitter in the Rawalpindi Locomotive Shops: and this gave rise to a series of demands by an unrecognised North Western Railway Union, in opposition to the recognised Union which has published a statement that it has no connection with the strike and is, in fact, opposed to it. The demands included a general increase of salaries by 25 per cent. increases in emoluments in the shape of house rent, etc., a further increase of five per cent. in pay for each child born to an employee: that no employee who had completed five years service on the railway should be liable to dismissal or discharge: and that all fines and punishments of employees should cease in future unless approved after arbitration through the Union.

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The European Community.

Sir Arthur Froom, speaking at the annual meeting of the Bombay branch of the European Association on April 29, called upon Europeans to take an active part in the administration of India. He said that, during the recent session at Delhi, the weight of opinion of the handful of non-official Europeans in the Assembly of the Council had been felt in no small measure, and their assistance in many legislative matters had been recognised and appreciated by all parties. "We can trust the present Government to uphold law and order, but we should not let matters rest there. We should let the Government feel that they have our support, in other matters of policy and administration no less important than the maintenance of law and order, when we agree with them, rather than stand aside and do nothing at all. We should join hands with those Indians who are content to advance step by step towards self-government in this country, Indians who honestly have the interest of their country at heart and who are anxious to develop future progress along the right lines."

The Indian Post Office.

A correspondent, writing to the *Pioneer*, says that the Indian post office carries 1,200 million articles a year—about four per head for the entire population of India, in about a week for each person who can read and write. A comparison of the number of literate persons and the number of postal articles in each Province gives the curious result that the postal circle of Sind and Baluchistan stands first—every literate person in that circle is responsible for 145 postal articles a year. The Punjab is second, with 140: and Bombay third, with 111. There is then a heavy drop to 75—the figures for the United Provinces; while, in spite of the enormous correspondence to and from Calcutta, the postal circle of Bengal and Assam stands no higher than sixth, with 52 postal articles a year for each literate person. Last on the list is Burma, which is curious since the proportion of literates in Burma is definitely higher than anywhere in India. The fact is, says the writer, that the Burman has not yet realised the reliability of the post and either carries his letter himself or entrusts it to any friend who happens to be going in the direction of the addressee.

The Haj.

Bombay reports of April 25 say that Shaukat Ali, the President of the Central Khilafat Committee, has received a letter from Ibn Saud, Sultan of Nejd, inviting Indian pilgrims to make the pilgrimage this year, and promising to "look after the security of their life and property, and offer them all comforts." The letter says that Ibn Saud is in effective possession of the ports of Rabagh, Lith and Kunfida on the Red Sea, where "all arrangements have been made so that the caravan route may be opened and all merchandise may come in freely" and announces that Ibn Saud has "made all necessary arrangements for this year's Haj, and all conveniences have been provided for pilgrims at the three ports mentioned and on the route between them and Mecca"; but includes an appeal for help for "the poor starving residents" of Mecca.

A leading pilgrim guide who arrived in Bombay on April 22, said that great hardships were being experienced in Mecca where supplies were short and sold at exorbitant prices, so that the citizens were leaving daily: and a communiqué issued by the Government of India says that Lith and Kunfida are considered dangerous for navigation and that at Rabagh, so far as they are able to ascertain, there are no facilities for the handling of shipping, no telegraphic communication, no boats for disembarking pilgrims and no surplus supplies; so that, in the opinion of the British Consul at Jeddah, the risk of a disastrous breakdown would be great. The Government of India, in publishing these facts, disclaim any intention of interference, and say that "if Moslem religious bodies, with the realisation of the risks which these facts disclose, are able to assume the responsibility of advising their co-religionists to attempt to make the pilgrimage this year, the Government will put no obstacles in the way."

Shaukat Ali had called upon the Government of India to assume responsibility for the protection of the lives and property of the pilgrims: which they naturally declined to do: and, in view of this refusal, and of the report of the pilgrim guide regarding the conditions at Mecca, the Bombay Haj Committee have advised their co-religionists that "it is by no means advisable that any intending pilgrim should expose his life and property to danger by leaving India this year for a pilgrimage." Their pronouncement also mentions the fact that the Governments of Java, Egypt, Persia and Turkey have forbidden their subjects from undertaking the pilgrimage this year.

Shaukat Ali's attempt, first to convey the impression that the Government of India had refused permission for the Haj, and secondly to fasten responsibility upon them for its safe performance, seems therefore to have definitely failed.

Foreign Trade During March.

The trade return of British India for the month of March, 1925, showed, as compared with the preceding month, increases in the value of exports and imports. The exports of Indian produce and manufactures surpassed even the record figure of 42,95 lakhs in the preceding month by 2,40 lakhs and constituted again a fresh record at 45,35 lakhs. The value of the imports of private merchandise rose from 18,78 lakhs in February, 1925, to 19,85 lakhs in March.

Imports of raw materials rose by 23 lakhs, mineral oils showing the largest increase. Imports of manufactured articles rose by 35 lakhs, the chief increase being in cotton piece goods, and the chief decrease in railway plant and rolling stock. In exports, there was an increase in food grains and decreases in tea and sugar. Exports of raw materials rose by 3,43 lakhs, the chief increase being in raw cotton, seeds, and raw jute. Of the total shipments of 113,000 tons of raw cotton, Japan took 56,000 tons, Italy 14,600 tons, China 8,800 tons, and the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and France each took from 6,000 to 7,000 tons. Exports of manufactured goods increased by 1,40 lakhs, the chief increase being in gunny bags and gunny cloth.

The share of the United Kingdom in imports rose from 56 per cent. in March, 1924, to 58 per cent. in March, 1925, while in exports it fell from 18 to 15 per cent. The shares of Germany, Japan, and the United States in March, 1925, were respectively, 6, 7 ,and 5 per cent. under imports and 8, 20, and 9 per cent. under exports.

During the year ending March, 1925, the value of the imports, as compared with the preceding year, increased by Rs. 19 crores or 8 per cent. to Rs. 247 crores, and the total exports including re-exports by over Rs. 36 crores or 10 per cent. to Rs. 398 crores.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British possessions during the month of March, 1925, amounted, respectively to 640,000 and 885,000, as against 582,000 and 775,000 in February, 1925, and 600,000 and 843,000 a year ago. The tonnage entered into and cleared from British India during the year 1924-25 was 6,989,000 and 8,590,000 respectively, as compared with 6,757,000 and 8,006,000 in the preceding year.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The following transfers and promotions in the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. :—

Mr. L. C. Dalton, Puisne Judge, Gold Coast, to Puisne Justice, Ceylon.

Mr. C. E. L. Cox, Crown Attorney, Dominica,, to President of a District Court, Cyprus.

Mr. A. A. P. D. Stone, Assistant Director of Public Works, Gambia, to Director of Public Works, Cyprus.

Moukbil Bey has been appointed Turkish Chargé d'Affairs in London.

Mr. John Murray, head of the Egyptian section of the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, has been appointed a Counsellor of Embassy.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

May 28, 1925 (New Style).
May 15, 1925 (Old Style).
Julkaada, 5, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 5, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Valentine Chirol celebrated his 73rd birthday last Saturday.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon are staying at the Palace Hotel, Montreux.

Prince Christopher, of Greece, who has been on a visit to London, left on May 19 for Paris.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape left London last Saturday night for Scotland.

Sir Alban Young, late British Minister in Belgrade, and Lady Young have arrived in London from Yugoslavia.

Sir Campbell Rhodes has arrived from India, and has taken his seat as a member of the Council of the Secretary of State.

Soliman Sabit Bey, who has been appointed an Attaché at the Egyptian Legation, arrived in London on May 19, from Rome.

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Lloyd, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., P.C., D.S.O., Designate High Commissioner in Egypt.

Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton have returned from Jerusalem, and are staying at 23, Marloes Road, W.8.

The Earl and Countess of Reading visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on May 22, and remained to luncheon with their Majesties.

The Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar arrived at Marseilles last Friday, on board the liner Rampura, on his way to Paris and London.

Princess Marie of Greece, with Rear-Admiral P. Joannidis, visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Thursday and remained to luncheon.

The Crown Princess of Roumania and her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, will pay a visit to England early in June. During their stay, which will extend over two months, they will reside at the Roumanian Legation. Princess Ileana of Roumania will arrive in London this week.

Mr. H. C. Luke, the former Assistant Governor of Jerusalem and now Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone, expects to arrive in England on leave early in June.

Faid Sabit Bey, First Secretary of the Egyptian Legation in London, has left for Paris, where he will act as Chargé d'Affaires, as the Minister has left for Cairo on leave.

The Annual Dinner of the Indian Civil Service Dinner Club will take place at the Hotel Cecil on June 10. The Afternoon Party will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Thursday, June 11.

Ferid Bey has been appointed Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and is shortly expected to arrive in England from Angora, accompanied by Mme. Ferid, who is a well-known Turkish novelist.

Lieut.-Colonel F. L. N. Giles (upon his appointment as His Majesty's Military Attaché at Belgrade and Athens) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace, last Friday.

Sir Allan and Lady Horne entertained to luncheon at Claridge's last Friday, the Maharaja of Jodhpur, Maharaj Singh, Rao Raja Sir Madho Singh, the Duke of Atholl, the Countess of Carlisle, Lady Bridges, Lady Baring, Lady George Cholmondeley, Sir Harcourt Butler, Captain and Mrs Ambler, and Mr. Evans.

Sir Arthur and Lady Hardinge gave a luncheon party last Thursday at Claridge's, at which the guests included the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Lord and Lady Wharton, Colonel and Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Mrs. Mansfield, and Captain Das.

Mr. C. Leonard Woolley, director of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered a lecture on "The excavations at Ur, 1924-25," at a meeting of the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, last Friday evening.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Arthur Blakeney Coussmaker, second son of the late Rev. John Octavius and Mrs. Coussmaker, of Hamstall Rectory, Rugeley, Staffordshire, and Militza, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milosav Mishitch of Belgrade.

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THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925.

BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

The resignation of Lord Allenby of his position as High Commissioner in Egypt marks another notable stage in the history of Anglo-Egyptian relations. His appointment in March, 1919, was an admission of the serious situation with which Great Britain was confronted. Armed rebellion was stalking through the land; there was no Ministry in office. Lord Allenby's task was to restore order, to re-establish normal conditions of administration, and to remove the bitterness with which the whole Egyptian people regarded Great Britain. How well he has succeeded, in spite of complications calculated to test the capacity of the most experienced administrator, is proved by the position in Egypt to-day and by the high esteem in which he is held personally by the Egyptians. The military prestige of the Special High Commissioner was an invaluable asset in the early days of his tenure of office, but, as the event proved, it would not have carried him very far in the settlement of the tangled problem with which he was faced, if it had not been linked with statesmanlike powers of intuition. Lord Allenby made up his mind that the vacillations of British policy had made the Protectorate unworkable, and that the only way out of an impossible situation lay in the grant to Egypt of independence. The Milner Agreement had provided a practical arrangement on this basis; but the British Government unwisely terminated the Protectorate and declared Egypt an independent sovereign State without simultaneously securing a settlement of certain matters vital to British interests. A deadlock resulted. The country, it is true, did not revert at any time to conditions as bad as they were in 1919; but the murder of Sir Lee Stack was a measure of the failure to secure the co-operation essential to Anglo-Egyptian relations. This time the heavy hand of the military commander brought Egypt up with a jerk; realisation of the dangerous path along which she was being led by anti-British propaganda followed, and for the first time Zaghloul Pasha's hold on his countrymen was weakened. It became evident, however, that there could be no immediate adjustment of Anglo-Egyptian relations on a satisfactory footing, and that the task more properly devolved on a civilian administrator. Lord Allenby could claim to have accomplished more than he had been set to do at the time of his appointment; order has been restored, the administration is functioning normally, and, thanks in no small measure to the personal prestige of the High Commissioner, any bitterness that remains against the British is confined to an irreconcilable minority of extremists.

Although it is customary to regard the Cromer régime in Egypt as the rule of a benevolent despot, it has to be remembered that the basis of his authority was the co-operation of the Egyptian Government. Without such co-operation the relations between Egypt and Great Britain can never be on a footing satisfactory to both parties. The outbreak of 1919 and the subsequent intransigence of Zaghloul Pasha in office have dealt a serious blow to that co-operation, even when it has not been actually severed. Lord Allenby's High Commissionership marks in this respect a transition stage, it is to be hoped, between two periods in Egyptian history, in which, however different the circumstances, the status of the country represents the application of a *modus vivendi* amicably settled and honourably observed both by Egypt and Great Britain. When he hurriedly returned to Egypt in 1919 co-operation had ceased. Thanks to the courage of Yehia Pasha and other Egyptian leaders it has been in large measure restored; but tentatively, as it were, pending the settlement of certain vital questions that are still outstanding. To Sir George Lloyd, the new High Commissioner, will fall, therefore, the task of placing Anglo-Egyptian relations once more on a footing of friendly and mutually beneficial co-operation. For the present the situation is clouded by the "reserved subjects," and so remains in all its essentials where it has been at any moment since the Declaration of 1922, by which it is governed. This *status quo*, more unsatisfactory to Egypt than to Great Britain, holds good until it can be modified by mutual consent. The attitude of Zaghloul Pasha was that it had to be modified at his dictation and on his terms; the more moderate parties now in power recognise that there can be no dictation on either side, but so far have shown little inclination to appreciate the terms that are essential to agreement. It is to this difficult situation that the new High Commissioner succeeds, with many years' political experience, with wide knowledge of and keen interest in the East and its affairs, and with a brilliant record as Governor of Bombay.

The High Commissionership of Egypt offers Sir George Lloyd an opportunity for winning fresh laurels in a very different sphere from that in which he made his mark as an Indian Governor. The smaller the opportunity for the exercise of personal authority, the larger the scope for personality. Egypt has yet to learn that civilisation is merely life with a sense of responsibility, and that, until that sense has been cultivated, it is idle for the Egyptians to claim a place in the front rank of modern States. Lord Cromer had continually to complain that the tendency to shirk responsibility was "almost universal" among Egyptian officials, and in spite of his long régime he never succeeded in inculcating in the public men of Egypt that sense of responsibility which really distinguishes a civilised Power from a backward country. Sir George Lloyd will be called upon to complete the work that Lord Cromer did not succeed in finishing. If Zaghloul Pasha, whether in office or out of office, had had in the smallest degree a sense of his responsibility to his countrymen, Egypt would have to-day no reason to trouble her head as to whether her independence lacked on paper a point or two in the matter of completeness. The first beginnings of a wiser outlook among Egypt's public men are already apparent, and the new High Commissioner is eminently fitted, by his ability, his sympathy, and breadth of view, to encourage among Egyptians that sense of responsibility which is an essential preliminary to the cordial co-operation which Great Britain has the right to expect and without which Egypt cannot hope to prosper.

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THE TRIBES OF THE CAUCASUS.

By MALCOLM BURR.

The Caucasus has been famed from antiquity for the diversity of its peoples and languages. Strabo refers to seventy, and even a hundred tongues, and Pliny writes of one hundred and thirty interpreters being necessary for commercial transactions: the Arab geographer, El Aziz, credits the region with three hundred tongues. He might as well have said a thousand and one, but Strabo is not so far from the truth when he refers to twenty-six languages in the eastern district known as Albania, which, by the way, has no connection with the Balkan country known to Europe by that name.

The popular theory that the Caucasus acted as a kind of filter for the hordes of innumerable nations who have invaded Europe from the expanse of Asia may be relegated to the same limbo as the tales of relics of Crusaders and even Scottish Highlanders, who are said to linger among the crags of the mighty range. The first concrete scientific fact revealed by modern research is that the natives of the present day are all short-headed, while the skulls dug up are long-headed. The modern theory is that the range has been a refuge for harassed remnants rather than a focus of dispersal.

The works of Shegren, von Schiefner, and above all, Baron Uslar and Fritz Muller, have contributed considerably to the elucidation of the variegated ethnology of the Caucasus, and now we can tabulate the people as follows, at least on a linguistic basis.

There are five groups, the Indo-European, or Aryan, the Kartelian or Georgian, the West Mountain Group, or Circassian, the East Mountain Group, or Lesghian, and the Turanian or Turco-Tatar Group.

I.—THE INDO-EUROPEAN GROUP.

1. *Armenian.*—The Armenians are certainly a mixed race; they frequently show the regular convex curve from the back of the head to the tip of the nose which is called armenoid, and is characteristic of the old Hittite carvings. The language, with a heavy overburden of borrowed words, is undoubtedly Aryan, remotely akin to the Iranian, and probably a survivor of an extinct family that was once midway between the Iranian and Lithuano-Slavonic families. The recent researches of Hrozny, who has interpreted the cuneiform Hittite records, have shown that Hittite is an Indo-European language, and this may throw further light on the origins of Armenian.

2. *Osset.*—The Ossets of the Central heights of the main range, on both sides of the Georgian Military Road, number some 70,000. They call themselves Iron, that is Iranian, and are undoubtedly descendants of the ancient Alani, the most powerful tribe of the Sarmatians, whose military empire supplanted the Scythian in southern Russia in the second century, B.C. Their striking and highly individualistic art, which was strong enough to resist hellenisation, impressed itself on Europe: their special adaptation of the Scythian animal style, work in precious stones, and that enamel known as polychrome jewellery and miscalled Gothic, passed up the trade routes of the Danube, right into Scandinavia, and has even been traced to Kent. They iranised the Greek cities of the Euxine, and threatened Rome.

It is interesting to note that the Osset word for water is *Don*. The tongue is purely Iranian, not remotely akin to Persian.

3. *Tat* and *Talysh.*—These are two dialects of one Iranian language, the former spoken chiefly by the Jews round Baku, the latter by the highlanders of Talysh. The word *tat* is Dzhagatai Tatar for servant, and was given to the mixed Tatars of the Crimean coast who are of Mediterranean descent and is probably the origin of the word Tatar, in which Western Europe inserted a redundant R, influenced by the idea of Tartarus.

4. *Kurds.*—These are a genuine Iranic people and their tongue has two dialects. The Kurds of Russia, chiefly in the country round Erivan and Kars, are indistinguishable from their kinsmen in Turkey.

5. *Persians.*—There are about thirty thousand genuine Persians in the Caucasus, scattered in the towns, engaged in commerce.

II.—THE KARTELIAN OR GEORGIAN GROUP.

6. *Georgian*, 7. *Mingrelian*, and 8. *Svan.*—These three languages, with several dialects, form the Kartelian, or Georgian Group. The people number about a million and inhabit the central regions, not reaching the coast. Tribes of the Georgians proper are the Pshavs, Tush, true Georgians, Imeritinians, Gurians and Khevsurs, the latter wearing mail armour on ceremonial occasions, which has given rise to the tradition of the Crusaders. The Mingrelians dwell further to the north-west, and the Svans in "Free Svanetia," on the inaccessible heights of Mt. Elbruz, where they were governed by the Dadian family. Their language, with its dialects, and country are but little known. The Adzhars are Gurians who accepted Islam and inhabit a range of hills at the back of Batum, called Adzharistan, to the south of Guria. The Laz are a branch of Mingrelians who accepted Islam four centuries ago and emigrated to Turkey.

Georgian has an ancient and peculiar alphabet, with elegant rounded letters somewhat resembling Tibetan. It is curious to note that in Georgian, the word of father is *mama*, and mother is *deda*.

They are an aristocratic, military race, tall, handsome and swarthy: some have tried to trace them to colonies of Hebrew captives planted by Shalmaneser in the Caucasus. Their language, however, has nothing in common with Hebrew, and is neither Semitic nor Indo-European. The Kartelian tongues are *sui generis*.

III.—WEST MOUNTAIN GROUP OR CIRCASSIAN.

9. *Abkhaz.*—This is a small people, numbering now some seventy thousand souls, inhabiting the mountainous coast of the Black Sea behind Sukhum Kale and Gagri. Formerly an independent principality, they were dominated for a time by the Georgian Empire, but in 1810 their prince, Sefer Bey, accepted Russian suzerainty. They were converted to Christianity in the time of Justinian and Islam came to them in the XVIIth Century, but really they are more pagan than either, and the Mohammedans celebrate Christian festivals. They are a pleasant, democratic, hospitable, patriarchal people, holding women in respect, and making good infantrymen. In 1864-66, a number of Moslem Abkhaz emigrated to Turkey and others mingled with the Mingrelians and Kabardins, leaving their country almost deserted. They call themselves Apsua, and were known to the Byzantines as Abazzi or Avogazi; to the Russians as Obesi. Their language is highly peculiar, with a remarkable phonology, containing clicks said to resemble some sounds in the Bantu languages. In recent times an alphabet has been invented for them, based on the Russian, with over forty letters.

10. *Ubuikhi.*—On the Black Sea coast, between the streams Klasta and Shakbe, there are still perhaps the remnants of a tribe that called itself Pakh, but the Russians knew them by the Cherkess name, Ubuikh. Uslar considered them independent from but connected with the Abkhaz. In 1864, most of them migrated to Turkey and were absorbed, and the language is now almost extinct.

11. *Cherkess.*—The famous Cherkess were called Kerket by Strabo, which the Genoese reduced to Circassian: the ultimate origin of the name is unknown. They call themselves Adige. They accepted Christianity from Byzantium, but prefered Islam and are fanatic Moslems to-day. They fiercely resisted Russian expansion, and in 1858-65, most of them migrated to Turkey, where they have mostly become absorbed. In contradistinction to the Abkhaz, this fierce and handsome people is brilliant, vindictive, aristocratic: women hold a low position, and the men are by instinct cavalrymen. Their language is little known but highly peculiar, and there are three main

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dialects, Kabardin, spoken round Vladikavkaz, Beslene, and Abadzechi: other tribes have the euphonious names of Bzhedukni, Shapsugi and Notkuadzhi.

IV.—EAST MOUNTAIN OR LEZGHIAN GROUP.

This group comprises numerous tongues in Daghestan, which, though mutually unintelligble, have a common origin. Often a single *aul* or mountain village, will have a peculiar language of its own, the result of long isolation.

12. *Chechentsi.*—This is the most numerous tribe, numbering some 200,000, on the steppes of the Ter, round Grozny and up into the forest district of the mountains: for many years they resisted the Russian advance and are fierce, warlike and active, but uneducated and backward, with no social organisation of their own. One tribe, the Ingush, round Vladikavkaz, are notorious thieves and robbers.

The remaining tribes may be grouped under the name of Lezghian; they are all fanatical Moslems, who for nearly a generation held Russia at bay. Each tribe has a distinct language. The most important are:—

13. The *Avars*, of Central Daghestan, numbering about 150,000; they have no connection with the Avars who invaded Europe in the Middle Ages; those were Turanians, who were assimilated with their kinsmen the Magyars. The most famous Avar in history was Shamyl, the hero of the Caucasus Wars of the middle of the last century, an amazing man. In the Andi province there are eight distinct dialects of Avar, which may be reckoned as distinct languages.

14. *Didoitsi.*—About six thousand.

15. *Dargins.*—About ninety thousand, with three dialects.

16. *Kiurins.*—About 130,000, in the upper Samur valley; they call themselves Lezghians and this name is generally taken for the whole group.

17. *Rutuls Tsakhurs*, about 30,000, in and round and Baku, are related to the Kiurins.

18. *Laks* or *Kazi-Kumukhs.*—This is the chief tribe after the Avars; they number about 130,000, were once an independent khanate, and very fierce fanatics, but now are peaceful traders.

19. *Tabasarans.*—A very distinct tribe, numbering about seventeen thousand.

20. *Ud.*—Of these there are about 7,000, dwelling in a couple of villages near Nukha; their affinities appear to be with the Kiurins, but their dialect contains a number of loan-words from Armenian and Avar.

21. *Archin* is spoken in a single *aul* in the Lak country.

22. *Kubachin.*—This language was but little studied by Uslar; he succeeded, however, in exploding the extraordinary myth that these mountaineers are a lost body of wandering Franks or Moravians.

Little known are the dialects of the *Aguli*, *Khinalug*, *Dzhek*, *Budug*, *Gaputlin* and *Kryz;* these seem to be mutually unintelligible.

V.—TURCO-TATAR GROUP.

The Turanian peoples are not indigenous to the Caucasus, but within the area so-called a substantial number of Tatars of various tribes are settled.

23. *Ottoman Turks* still live round Batum and on the shores of the Black Sea. They are mostly porters and petty traders.

24. *Azerbaijan Tatars.*—This is an important nation, numbering some two millions, and extending across the Russian frontier into Persia. Their language is widespread, and owing to its simple structure, is the lingua franca of the eastern Transcaucasus. The Azerbaijan Tatars are of mixed origin, and are backward and uneducated.

25. *Nogai.*—The relics of the Nogai Horde now number but some sixty thousand souls, on the steppes of the Kuma and Terek.

26. *Karanogais.*—These are pure nomads, on the steppes of the Ter.

27. *Kumuiks.*—A fairly civilised tribe, numbering about 100,000; their idiom is the trade language of the north-east Caucasus; formerly they were organised under their own sultans.

28. The *Balkars* are cattle-breeders in the gorges of the Cherek, Chezem and Baksan; they number about 20,000.

29. *Karachai* Tatars are a prosperous tribe about 35,000 strong, in the Kuban.

30. *Karapapakhi* live round Kars; they are but little known, and said to number about 30,000.

31. *Kirghiz.*—There is a small detached colony of this great Transcaspian nation near Stavropol.

42. *Truchmans.*—There are about 15,000 of these cattle-breeders on the northern slopes, but they are not very well known.

43. *Turkmenians.*—About 15,000 of these fierce nomads are still wandering about the Caucasus.

44. *Kalmuks.*—These mounted Buddhist nomads sometimes stray down to the steppes of the Ter.

Thus we have enumerated forty-four languages, but only the first twenty-two can be regarded as genuine Caucasian tongues, for the various Tatar idioms are neither truly endemic nor peculiar to the district. But in the more remote fastnesses of Daghestan, there are still dialects and idioms to study, some of which we have mentioned without enumerating, for they are too little known, and in the valley of the upper and middle Andes and Korsa there is a district which has hardly been explored linguistically; it is reported that there are five more languages there, but these are probably all dialects of one, the so-called Andean language of Zagursky.

We have purposely omitted Russian, which has been the official language in modern times, and the German colonists, the numerous Greeks, Jews and Gipsies. The latter are known locally as Bashi or Karachi. Of ordinary Jews there are but few in the Caucasus, but one extraordinary community deserves mention. These are the famous Mountain Jews, of whom there are some 30,000 on the slopes of the Ter and near Baku. They live the same life as the Lezghians, dress like them, and speak Tat interlarded with Hebraisms. The Semitic family is also represented by a few thousand Assyrians, whom the Russians call *Aisors*, chiefly in the Erivan district; many of these wander into Russia to earn their living as hotel messengers and bootblacks.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Empire Cotton Growing.

The importance of the development of cotton growing within the Empire gives a special importance to the annual meeting of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, a report of which will be found on another page in this issue. It is absurd that this country should have been mainly dependent on America for so many long years for the bulk of its supplies of raw cotton when there are such vast regions in the Empire suitable for growing the material. The desirability on general grounds of being independent of external sources for this essential raw material has been re-inforced by the economic conditions arising out of the War, which have rendered of vital moment the restriction of purchases from countries which impose a high tariff on imports. Happily we are now progressing on the road which must ultimately lead us to something approaching independence in the matter of cotton supplies, and as the report presented at the meeting showed, developments in the past year have been most encouraging, and when the Sudan is playing its full part in the production of cotton the relation of British-grown cotton to the world production will be materially altered.

A Turkish Floating Trade Exhibition.

The news that the Sefain Steamship Company's "Kara Deniz" is to commence a tour of the principal Mediterreanean and Atlantic ports in July with a cargo of exhibits of Turkish produce, is a further illustration of the efforts Turkey is making to stand on her feet. Personally, I am more than a little dubious as to the value of floating exhibitions, and it seems very open to doubt whether the game is worth the candle in the case of a purely agricultural country. But the voyage of the "Kara Deniz," if it is not likely to have any very positive advantages, will do no harm, and the Turks' main object is probably to show the flag.

Economic Conditions in Turkey.

One would like to think that the initiative shown in this proposed voyage is an indication of a definite policy on the part of the Turkish authorities to do everything possible to encourage the return of normal trade conditions in the country. It can only be said that what has been done so far has not had any very definite results, and the commercial position at Constantinople can still only be described as one of stagnation. The present situation is indicated by the announcement by the National Bank of Turkey that, until further notice, it is not prepared to undertake fresh routine banking business in Turkey. One of the principal factors in the prevailing depression is the inability of the Turks to supply the place of those who formerly carried on the bulk of the country's trade and commerce. It is the price Turkey has had to pay for her nationalist policy.

Another State Trading Adventure?

There is a report to the effect that the Egyptian Government has under contemplation the purchase of a fleet of merchant vessels which it is proposed to use for the export of cotton and the import of materials required. I should have thought that after the disastrous experiences of State-owned shipping fleets of which we have heard so much in the last two or three years no other country would desire to embark on such an enterprise. We can only hope in the interests of Egypt that the report will prove to be unfounded, for while the country is at the present time in a flourishing financial position it can certainly not afford to lose money over the maintenance of a merchant fleet. The experiences of Great Britain and other countries since 1914, have shown very plainly that commerce and industry in all their varying branches can only be efficiently conducted by private enterprise. Is there any reason why an Egyptian experiment of this kind should have a better fate?

A New Greek Refugee Loan?

It was obvious that the settlement of the Greek refugees in conditions that would really give them a chance of establishing themselves would be a very costly business, and it is not surprising to learn that the Greek Government would like to discuss with the banks which issued the £12,000,000 Refugee Loan a further loan of £5,000,000. In certain circumstances I can quite well imagine a favourable result for Greece's credit stands high, and it is likely even that she may obtain a further loan on slightly easier terms. The unceasing efforts the Greek Government is making to improve the financial situation of the country are exemplified by the new financial law which provides *inter alia* for a surtax of ten per cent. on all existing taxes, a reduction of the limit of issue of National Defence Bills from 2,500 to 1,700 million drachmæ, and the cancellation of the right given to the National Bank of Greece to issue notes for the repayment of National Defence Bills. The fact that Greece feels able to take this step is an indication of the confidence felt by the authorities that Greece will be able to meet her obligations out of her ordinary revenue.

Burmah Oil.

Very satisfactory results are announced by the Burmah Oil Company for 1924. The profits were £2,257,157 as compared with £2,203,896 for 1923, and it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 22½ per cent. less tax making 35 per cent. less tax for the year, leaving £341,469 to be carried forward. The distribution for 1923 was 30 per cent. free of tax, so that this year's dividend is slightly higher.

COMMENTATOR.

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COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LEVANT DRIED FRUIT TRADE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Although my interest in the Levant dried fruit trade centres in the currant bun, the sultana cake, and an occasional fig perhaps you will allow me to make one or two comments on Dr. Haden Guest's articles appearing in the *Daily Mail*.

The introduction to the first article says that Dr. Guest went to the comestible centres of the Levant on purpose for these articles, entitled "Tainted Food."

Did he go as a journalist in search of copy, as a medical man anxious for the well-being of our stomachs, or as a Labour imperialist out to kill the Levant trade in the interest of imperial preference?

Whatever his object may have been the *Daily Mail* points the moral that we should henceforth buy our dried fruit only from Australia or other places within the Empire. If everyone followed this advice the supply would for some years be inadequate and the price prohibitive to the ordinary housewife.

Doubtless the conditions in which the fruit is handled in the Levant are by no means all that could be desired. Perhaps the same might be said of the picking of strawberries in Hampshire and of hops in Kent.

But whatever foundation there may be for Dr. Guest's articles he certainly seems to overpaint the picture. Otherwise, why does he insist more than once that the fruit is packed by brown men? As a doctor he must know that the pigment of the skin has nothing to do with dirt or cleanliness.

He describes how sultanas are scooped up from filthy floors and trodden into boxes by men with dirty feet. The sultana happens to be a light coloured fruit which would at once show any dirt. Import houses in Liverpool and elsewhere in this country carefully examine all consignments to see that they are according to sample, and would most certainly reject obviously soiled fruit. Smyrna figs have long been highly esteemed. This would not be so if the consumer found them dirty or gritty.

Anyone who has been alarmed by these "Tainted Fruit" articles may take comfort from the thought that currants and sultanas in order to remove the short stalks are usually washed before use. It is doubtful whether even Dr. Guest would suggest that a Christmas pudding made with imperially grown fruit is less indigestible than the one made with currants and sultanas from the Levant.—I am, etc.,

C. F. DIXON JOHNSON.

SUEZ CANAL MOTOR BARGES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Our attention has been drawn to your issue of April 30, 1925, in which on page 471 appears an article entitled "Khedivial Mail's New Motor Barges."

We beg to advise that the six motor water barges which were constructed by the Alexandria workshop of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co., Ltd., were built to the order of the Mediterranean Transport Co., Ltd., under the personal supervision of Mr. C. F. Robinson, the Khedivial Company's resident engineer in Alexandria, by whom they were designed and to whom great credit is due.

The barges in question are in operation in Port Said and Suez, in which ports their prompt service and exceptional pumping capacity, which conduces so greatly to the quick despatch of steamers, are much appreciated.

We shall be obliged if you will give publicity to this.—We are, Sir, Yours faithfully, CURWEN AND CO.

Managers.

The Mediterranean Transport Co., Ltd., Alexandria, May 16.

The British Commercial Secretary at Athens reports that the import duties on petroleum for lighting have been increased to the following rates:—If imported in bulk or in tins—82 and 70 dr. (metallic) per 100 okes (gross weight), under the "General and "Conventional" Tariffs respectively. If imported in tins with wooden cases—75 and 63 dr. (metallic) per 100 okes (gross weight), under the "General" and "Conventional" Tariffs respectively. These duties are payable on import into the New Provinces of Greece, the importation of petroleum for lighting into the Old Provinces being prohibited.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended May 23, states:—

American cotton has this week reversed its recent tendency and there has been a fairly sharp advance in prices. A development of this nature frequently acts as a stimulant to buyers abroad, but on this occasion it has not had that effect as yet. Overseas markets are still acting with considerable caution and a fair amount of recent business appears to have initiated from Manchester Houses buying in anticipation of the demand which they hope will subsequently materialise.

Yarn.—A somewhat improved tone is noticeable in this section due to freer buying of certain American counts. Inquiry for medium counts is still poor, however. There is nothing new to report with regard to yarn spun from Egyptian cotton, trade in which is very slow at present.

Cloth.—Little of interest has transpired in this section. Indent business for India has been on only a moderate scale and it now appears to be thought that developments can hardly be expected until after the monsoon. Little has been done for China or for minor outlets.

Raw cotton.—The advance in American cotton already referred to appears to have been due to anticipation of a certain amount of difficulty (not unusual towards the close of a season) in fulfilling the requirements of spinners for particular grades. The advance has therefore been chiefly in old crop months and the margin between these and new crop months has widened. There is nothing new to report with regard to the prospects for the growing crop, but the first American Agricultural Bureau Report, to be published on June 2, is awaited with much interest. Business in Egyptian cotton has only been small and the price is nearly 1d. per lb. lower. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 12.84; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 29.35.

The British Commercial Secretary at Prague reports that, according to statistics compiled by the Central Union of the Czecho-Slovak Sugar Industry, the total area under cultivation amounts to 303,808 hectares, as compared with 299,645 hectares last year, an increase of 1.4 per cent., and the highest figure reached since the War. During the 1925-26 sugar season 157 sugar factories will be working, as compared with 155 in 1924-25.

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., have secured an order for 100 of their single battery electrically regulated train lighting equipments for the new passenger carriages building for the London Midland and Scottish Railway.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST."

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Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

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TURKEY.
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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 300 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 4.

THE YUGOSLAV FREE ZONE AT SALONIKA.

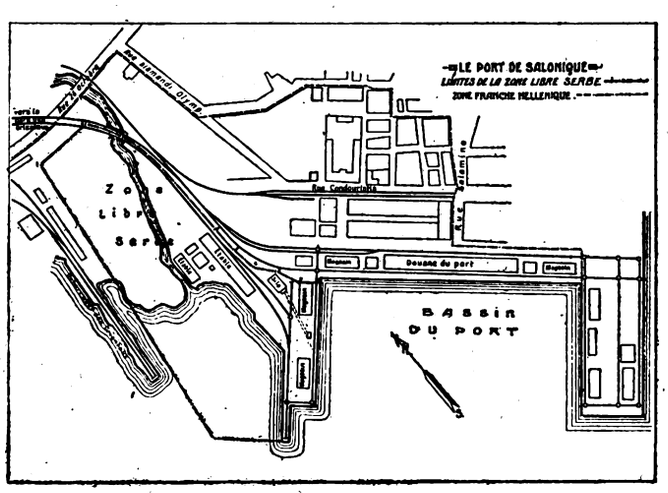
Historical Survey.

When, after the Balkan wars in 1913, the question arose between the victorious Serbs and Greeks as to the possession of Salonika, Serbia agreed that the town should pass into the hands of the Greeks, although it had been won largely through her arms, and although it was of vital importance to her economic life. One condition, however, she did make, that the Greeks should allow free and unhindered passage to her commerce through Salonika, by way of which almost the whole of Serbia's trade had been directed since the customs war with Austria-Hungary. When Greece agreed to this condition, it was not a concession on her part to the Serbian Kingdom, but only the fulfilment of her obligation under the terms of the alliance of 1913, and in some measure a *quid pro quo* for the recognition of Greek sovereignty of Salonika. In the 1913 treaty of alliance the Greek Government undertook for fifty years to grant full freedom to Serbian commerce *via* Salonika, but did not at the time specify the method of carrying out that obligation. In order to regulate the question more precisely a mixed Greco-Serb commission met at Salonika in 1914, which immediately proposed that the best method of realising the freedom promised to Serbian commerce was by the creation of a Special Zone allotted exclusively to Serbian transit traffic *via* Salonika. The result of the negotiations was the Convention drawn up on March 23, 1914, which had to be submitted for referendum. This convention, however, was subsequently found to be unsatisfactory in many ways—the Greek Government, for instance, had reserved to itself the right of forbidding the entry of goods in certain circumstances, which made the freedom of transit a mere illusion, and it was never ratified. When the world War broke out, the whole question of the free zone was postponed for eight years.

As a result of the difficulties experienced by Yugoslav trade *via* Salonika after the War, in particular from the Greco-Turkish war, military requisitions, prohibitions, restrictions, frontier difficulties, etc., the Government of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes found itself obliged to press for the definitive settlement of the question of free transit, by the creation of a free zone at Salonika. The negotiations to this end were crowned with success, when on May 10, 1923, a new convention was signed at Belgrade, with four separate protocols, which was ratified the following year.

The Terms of the Convention.

The Convention embodies the following provisions:—The Greek Government makes over to the use of the S.H.S. Kingdom for a period of fifty years a space of 94,000 square metres in the port of Salonika, known as the "Yugoslav Free Zone." Although this zone forms part of Greek territory it shall be under the customs administration of the S.H.S. Kingdom, which shall appoint the necessary officials and staff. Internal correspondence within the zone shall be in the Serbian language; the supervision of ships, and lading and unlading, shall be executed by Yugoslav officials, while the police and judicial authority remain in the hands of the Greek Government. All goods despatched from the Serbian Zone shall be regarded on the Greek side as transit goods. The



The Port of Salonika

Yugoslav Government has the right, at its own expense, to erect buildings and to make the necessary installations, and to impose fees for their use. The Greek Government on its part undertakes on its territory not to enforce any prohibition or offer hindrances in regard to Serbian goods in transit, of whatever kind. Besides these general provisions, special attention has been paid to communications, postal, telegraphic and veterinary questions, which, worked out in detail, form the subject of Protocols A. and B. The establishment of the Free Yugoslav Zone at Salonika may, therefore, be said to have fairly guaranteed the freedom of Yugoslav commerce *via* Salonika.

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Nevertheless, although the Convention in itself should afford satisfaction to Yugoslavia, there is one question vital to the success of the Zone which may cause anxiety. This is the size of the district allotted. Of the 94,000 square metres, only 54,000 are dry land, while the remainder are under water. The space thus available is actually inadequate to cope with the existing Yugoslav agricultural and forest exports, such as fruit, vegetables and wood, and too restricted to allow for the erection of the necessary warehouses, storehouses, offices, depôts, stations, etc., In these circumstances it will be impossible to lease land to individuals or to companies for the erection of private depôts, etc. This means that the greater part of goods for export *via* Salonika will not be able to wait the favourable moment for export in the Zone itself, but will have to be re-exported immediately, in order to avoid over-crowding. Thus the Zone will really serve only for direct transit (i.e., for stock and perishable goods), and for State Monopoly articles, and its value and importance will be thereby considerably lessened. The greater part of Yugoslav exports in transit will, therefore, be obliged to use the Greek Free Zone. Created on the demand of Salonika merchants at the same time as the Yugoslav Free Zone, the Greek Free Zone has greater space available, and is equipped with a larger number of necessary installations.

Trade Statistics.

The movement of Yugoslav goods through the port of Salonika (livestock and goods), has been, according to the figures of the Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce at Salonika, as follows:—In 1921, 3,950 trucks; in 1922, 4,370 trucks; in 1923, 6,986 trucks. Export, according to the different categories was as follows:—cattle, 462 trucks; horses and asses, 552; rams and goats, 2,787; wheat, 203; maize, 137; oats and barley, 185; beans, 331; potatoes, 353; prunes, 151; cheese, 76; untanned skins, 64; silk cocoons, 11; bricks, 362; wood for fuel, 24; wood coal, 85; building wood, 1,241; opium, 996 cases, etc. The details for 1924 are not yet ready, but it is expected that the total export will exceed 10,000 trucks.

Export *via* Salonika, therefore, is steadily increasing. Yugoslavia supplies by this means not only food and building material for the Salonika market, but also the Piraeus, Volo, Kavala, Constantinople, Smyrna, Marseilles and other places, with various products. This port constitutes not only the natural outlet for the whole Vardar district which is its natural hinterland, but is also utilised by the northern parts of Serbia as providing the shortest route for the Mediterranean lands. In spite, therefore, of the limitations of the Free Zone, considerable satisfaction prevailed throughout the Yugoslav business world when the Zone was officially handed over last month, and it became known that it would open to traffic within a very short time.

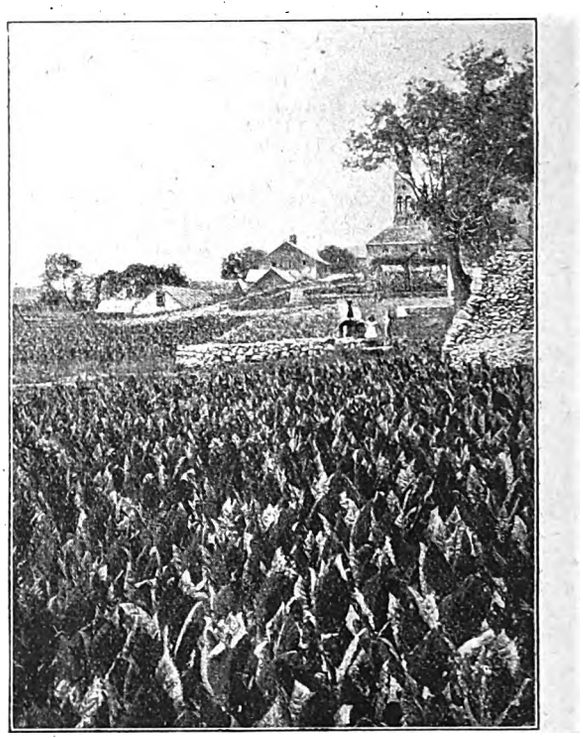
M. Pilsa.

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY.

In Yugoslavia the State alone has the right of producing, preparing and selling tobacco. Other monopolies in the hands of the State are matches, salt, cigarette paper, alcohol, saccharine and duty stamps; and all are under a central organisation known as the Administration of State Monopolies, which works through an Executive Committee and Director, with headquarters in Belgrade. This organisation comprises six departments: Administrative, Accounts, Economic, Sales, Industrial, and Cultivation and Fermentation. The Monopoly controls eight tobacco factories, fifty fermentation houses, and a large number of storehouses for the sale of tobacco preparations, salt, cigarette paper, matches, and duty stamps. It also owns two salt beds on the Adriatic coast at Pag and Ston, and a third at Kreka (Bosnia), besides an oil store and a printing works for duty stamps at Belgrade. The match factories and a cigarette paper works are in private hands, but their whole production is liable to monopoly duty. The Monopoly employs about 1,500 officials and staff, of whom 250 are at the head office. About 8,000 workers are employed in the tobacco factories, and about 12,000 in the fermentation houses. The annual capacity of the factories falls a little short of the amount of the annual consumption, varying between 10 and 12 million kilograms of cigarettes, cut tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco and plugs. The annual production of salt (about 5,000 trucks) does not meet consumption, and the deficit has to be supplied by import.

The yearly income of the Tobacco Monopoly amounts to about three milliard dinars (£19,000,000), and comes mainly from the cultivation of tobacco. The cultivation of tobacco, at present the most important agricultural product, is very extensive throughout the Kingdom. The largest post-War harvest was in 1924, when 27,000,000 kilograms of the leaf were grown. This gave a surplus production of 17 million kilograms, reckoning home consumption at 10 million. The geographical position and geological structure of the country make possible the growth of all kinds of tobacco, from the finest to the coarsest.

South-Serbian Tobacco (Macedonian) is a small-leafed, aromatic kind, suitable for making the finest cigarettes. In this province, where opium, rice and cotton flourish, tobacco cultivation might be enormously developed. In addition to possessing the advantages of a favourable climate and good soil, South Serbia is inhabited by people interested for generations in tobacco culture, who regard it as necessary as bread. The belt of land along the Greek frontier produces the best quality, and includes the districts of Prilep, Kavadar and Djevdjelije (Ghevgheli). Second in importance comes the part along the Bulgarian



Tobacco Field at Imotski (Dalmatia).

frontier, the regions of the Strumitza, Radovishte and Kochane. All these districts can claim suitable conditions for the growth of the most fragrant kinds of tobacco, very similar to Thracian, and even now small leaf kinds of Thracian origin are cultivated. It is very difficult to find pure kinds here, for the tobacco has been so much crossed that pure species have been lost. The yield per hectare of South Serbian tobacco varies from 600 to 800 kilograms, and the average price is about one dollar per kilogram. The next kind of tobacco, met going northward, is the large leafed, fairly aromatic plant grown round Skoplje and Vranje, while a strong variety, similar to that of Montenegro, Dalmatia and Bosnia is grown round Kumanovo, Tetovo, Krushevatz, Alexinatz and Uzhice. It it were not for the limitation of cultivation, South Serbia could produce about 20 million kilograms of tobacco.

Herzegovina.—Throughout Herzegovina and in parts of Dalmatia (Imot, Vrgoratz and Metkovitch) a special kind of large-leaf tobacco is grown. The large leaf is thin and waferlike, and of a golden colour; it has a fine

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thread for manufacture and extraordinary burning qualities. As a cut tobacco, with its fine thread and beautiful quality, it is unmatched, but it lacks the aroma of the Macedonian tobaccos. The geological formation of Herzegovina marks it out for tobacco culture. In the rocky districts which grow olives, figs and vines, tobacco is the only other possible crop, for others cannot flourish, for lack of fertile land. The poor Herzegovinian peasants are, therefore, obliged to grow tobacco in order to eke out an existence for their families.

A hectare (two-and-a-half acres) yields on an average 1,000 to 1,200 kilograms of dry leaf with an average price of half a dollar per kilogram. In a favourable year and with extended cultivation, Herzegovina and Dalmatia would be able to produce up to ten million kilograms.

Dalmatian tobacco is similar to that of Herzegovina, but poorer in quality. The best districts are those of Vrgoratz and Imot, while those in Herzegovina are Shiroki Breg, Ljubushki, Mostar, Chapljina and Stolatz.

Voivodina.—The vast fertile plain of the Voivodina (Banat and Bachka) produces good tobacco, of Virginian origin, for pipe tobacco and cheap cigarettes. The plant is large-leafed, of a brown colour and a peculiar aroma, similar to that of Javan, Brazilian and Virginian tobaccos. The cold climate of the plain does not permit the cultivation of the fine aromatic qualities. The leaves are not sufficiently elastic for the wrappers of cigars.

The yield per hectare is from 1,500 to 2,000 kilograms, and the average price a quarter dollar per kilogram. If cultivation were extended throughout the Voivodina, an annual crop of 20 million kilograms could be obtained.

The above facts show that the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is well adapted for the development of tobacco culture. Should the Monopoly Administration succeed in creating and establishing a sufficient number of modern fermenting stations, and find markets for the sale of its tobaccos, a harvest of fifty million kilograms might be obtained, an amount which would play an important part in competition on the world markets.

Drag. Vulitchevitch.

TOBACCO FOR POLAND.

The Monopoly Administration has sold to the Polish Tobacco Direction about 4,000,000 kilograms of tobacco for a total sum of about 15,000,000 Swiss francs, or, at the present rate, about 180,000,000 dinars. Thus the whole of the 1923 Yugoslav crop is now sold, a quantity of about 1,500,000 kilograms having been formerly sold, partly to Czecho-Slovakia, and partly to Poland.

This sale has also enabled the Monopoly Administration to prepare the way for future sales of tobacco abroad on a large scale. The excellent quality of the tobacco, and the care of the Monopoly Administration in ensuring the best possible packing and preparation for export have led to a keen interest being taken in Yugoslav tobacco, both by the Polish and Czecho-Slovak Tobacco Administrations and by business houses in other countries.

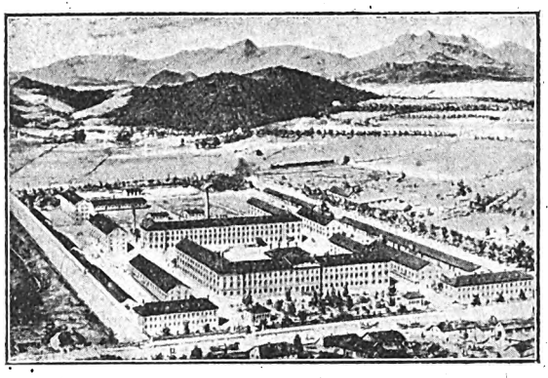
STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue raised during the first ten months (April, 1924—January, 1925) of the financial year (1924/25) amounted to 9,009,845,188 dinars as compared with the estimated amount of 8,670,833,333; that is to say, a surplus was realised of 339,011,855 dinars. Expenditure for the same period amounted to 8,451,649,804 dinars, as compared with the estimated amount 8,620,833,330 dinars, 219,183,528 dinars less than the estimated amount.

YUGOSLAV MARITIME POLICY.

At the conclusion of the War, Italy made the best possible use of her advantages as a Great Power, and when it came to a division of the territory of Austria-Hungary Italian opinion carried more weight in the Allied Councils than that of the young Yugoslav State. Having per-

State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

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suaded the Allies that it was the Italian victory at Vittoria Venetto which destroyed Austria-Hungary, Italy obtained the larger share of the Austro-Hungarian naval and mercantile fleet, as well as of the arsenals and war-equipment in the costal fortresses. History, however, will probably establish the fact that before the defeat of the Central Powers on the Western and Salonika fronts, the Austro-Hungarian armies, in the first days of the Venetto battle, were gaining ground against the Italians, and it was not until after the defeat on the other fronts, that Austria-Hungary, seeing that victory there would avail little, ordered her army to retreat from the Italian front also. The Italian victory, therefore, was in reality gained over the retreating army of a Power already beaten by British, French, American and Serbian armies. Be this as it may, Italy was treated as the chief victor against Austria-Hungary and received a very large share of the spoils. With the help of the Allies, she obtained a large section of Yugoslav territory inhabited by several hundred thousand non-Italians. Not satisfied with the great gains of the War, Italy did her best to prove that Dalmatia belonged to her, and to suppress all Yugoslav activity on the Adriatic shore, on the ground that Italians had lived on the eastern shore of that sea from the earliest times. This contention is opposed by the Slavs, who claim that it was they who inherited the possessions of Rome in the Balkans; for not only were the Italians not the heirs of the Romans in Dalmatia, but even in the days of Venetian rule those who came were only officials, who after a period of service returned to their own country. The few thousands of actual Italian inhabitants in that province did not settle there until the time of Napoleon. Even to-day, when pacts of friendship and good-will exist, the advancement of Yugoslav peoples on the Adriatic is discouraged by Italy, who is afraid of their rivalry.

In spite, however, of the fact that the best ports of the Adriatic have gone to Italy, together with the greater part of the Austrian merchant fleets, and that only a few derelict torpedo-boats were given to the S.H.S. Kingdom, the latter feels the necessity of developing the coastal district and of preparing a defensive force.

There are a number of Yugoslav ports on the Adriatic:—Sushak, Bakar, Senj, Shibenik, Split, Metkovich, Gruzh, Bocca di Cattaro, and Bar. Of these Sushak is connected with its hinterland by a normal gauge railway, and Metkovich, Gruzh and the Bocca, by narrow-gauge lines. Before the War, Fiume and Trieste were used by all the northern section of Yugoslavia, so that no need was felt for the building of a third port on the Croatian coast. The granting of Trieste and Fiume to Italy has proved a considerable handicap to the trade of this northern port of Yugoslavia, as Sushak is inadequate to cope with the whole of the export and import trade which has to pass through it. The ports in the middle and south coast are sufficiently large to meet the requirements of those parts for the actual moment.

The needs of the Kingdom now are for the construction of an adequate port on the Croatian coast, the enlargement of the southern ports and the provision of better communications with the hinterland. These aims are already being carried out as far as the present means of Yugoslavia permit.

The following table gives the shipping returns for 1913, with those for 1922 in brackets:—

Port.	Number of Ships	Tonnage.
Trieste ...	14,162	... 4,475,443
Fiume ...	12,792	... 3,455,215
Shibenik ...	3,962 (5,440)	... 805,243 (1,221,010)
Split ...	7,741 (12,625)	... 2,107,052 (2,771,768)
Metkovich ...	1,042 (2,368)	... 217,560 (385,602)
Gruzh ...	2,430 (3,787)	... 1,022,390 (1,563,671)
Cattaro ...	2,044 (2 124)	... 669,420 (503,468)

In 1922 the trade of the northern parts of the country went *via* Bakar, as Sushak, Fiume and Trieste were occupied by Italian soldiers. The number of ships arriving at Bakar was 4,099, with a tonnage of 669,907.

The above figures show that in 1922 the shipping that used Split amounted to three-quarters of the normal pre-War returns of Fiume, and together with Shibenik exceeded pre-War Fiume by 500,000 tons. This result was achieved in spite of the lack of railway connection.

As a further indication of the economic importance of the eastern Adriatic ports, the following statistics of State receipts and postal business (in dinars) may be given:—

Port.	Port Dues.	Postal Business.	Direct Taxes.	Customs.
Bakar ...	262,114	35,115,984.99	—	8,115,337.38
Shibenik ...	1,882,560	54,042,393.26	1,089,186.11	5,440,117.—
Split ...	5,036,221	498,669,546.28	9,298,968.03	35,086,550.80
Metkovich	133,995	64,492,808.18	337,089.79	7,682,145.75
Gruzh-Dubrovnik	3,058,041	122,297,608.72	2,690,252.72	30,451,943.46
Kotor ...	819,300	65,519,086.36	463,842.80	2,235,154.02
Total ...	11,192,231	840,137,427.79	13,879,339.45	89,011,248.41

In 1922/23 the following shipping companies were at work on the Dalmatian coast: "Dalmatia," "Austro-Croatian," "Hungaro-Croatian," "Dubrovnik Coastal Navigation," "Senj," fused into the "Adriatic Navigation Company." Other companies are the "Rachich," "Boka," and Matijevitch Bros."

JASHA GRGASHEVITCH.

(To be continued.)

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

In the six years from the formation of the S.H.S. Kingdom until now, energetic work has been going on for the improvement of communications. During this period, many lines destroyed during the War have been repaired, some have been completed which were begun before or during the War, while some entirely new ones, which were rendered essential as a result of post-War circumstances have been built.

During this post-War period of six years, 1,746 kilometres of State lines which had been destroyed have now been reconstructed; 678 kilometres of new lines have been laid down and opened to traffic, while another 90 kilometres are in the course of construction. Over 70 kilometres will be opened for service very shortly.

On the construction of these new lines (without reckoning the rails and iron bridges) there have been spent up to February 1, 1925, 57,357,885 gold dinars; 35,516,825 from the regular State Budget, 11,841,060 from an internal loan, and 10,000,000 from a foreign loan.

There are now 6,064 kilometres of State, and 3,850 kilometres of private lines in the whole railway system in regular use, altogether 9,914 kilometres. This figure does not include industrial lines which are not used for public traffic.

There are in the country many State lines inherited from the old regime, that were originally constructed from a totally different standpoint from that which has to regulate the Yugoslav railway system. As this system is now based on new centres, those of the old lines have become of little practical use, while others require to have their capacity increased.

Similarly there are ports which are small and which need extension, while new ones must also be built.

In order to settle which new lines and ports must be built in the interests of the State, and to reconstruct and supplement the existing system in the best way, work has begun on the drawing-up of a twenty years' plan of railway work for the whole kingdom, which will be submitted to Parliament for confirmation.

YUGOSLAV EXPORTS.

Customs returns for the first three months of 1925 show that 1,016,968 tons of goods, valued at 2,273,481,537 dinars (or 189,816,626 gold dinars) were exported, as compared with 715,264 tons, valued at 2,061,378,454 dinars (or 142,859,551 gold dinars) in the corresponding period in 1924—a gain of 42.18 per cent. in tonnage, and of 32.87 per cent. in value.

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The chief export articles during the quarter were:—

		Quantity.	Value in millions of dinars.
Maize	tons	283,241	613.3
Wood: timber	,,	247,893	309.0
fuel	,,	73,975	24.5
Eggs	,,	7,201	133.4
Copper ore	,,	3,252	109.2
Meat: fresh	,,	3,083	67.8
meat products	,,	410	14.1
Wheat flour	,,	12,052	80.3
Cereals: wheat	,,	12,069	58.7
other cereals	,,	3,920	14.1
Cement	,,	102,204	55.8
Live cattle	head	11,192	45.2
Hemp	tons	1,973	39.2
Horses	head	8,389	31.5
Hops	tons	486	35.3
Sheet lead	,,	2,130	31.1
Wood products	,,	2,781	29.1
Pigs	head	10,157	23.4
Calcium cyanimide	tons	8,496	20.1
Game skins	,,	83	25.6
Kachkavalj cheese	,,	487	17.7
Haricot beans	,,	3,742	15.4
Oak sleepers	,,	16,225	15.8
Various	,,	214,344	463.2
Total		1,016,968	2,273.4

The most important of the above articles were exported to the following countries:—Maize to Austria, (159.3 mil. dinars); Italy, 134.3; Czecho-Slovakia, 123.9. Wood timber to Italy, 211.4 mil. din.; Hungary, 16.4; France, 15.1 mil.—fuel, to Italy, 14.6 mil. dinars; Hungary, 6.5 mil.; Eggs to Switzerland, 53.8 mil. dinars; Austria, 33.3; Germany, 29.5 Crude copper to France, 37.5 mil. dinars; U.S.A., 35.8 mil.; Germany, 35.8. Meat—fresh, to Austria, 37.9; Italy, 14.6; Switzerland, 7.9. Meat products, to Italy, 7.1 mil.; Austria, 3.3; Greece, 1.6. Wheat Flour to Czecho-Slovakia 35.7 mil. dinars, Austria 20.6, Bulgaria 11.8. Wheat to Bulgaria, 27.1; Austria, 20.6; Hungary, 8.6 mil. Other cereals to Greece, 7.4 mil. dinars; Austria, 4.2. Cement to Greece, 24.4; Egypt, 17.9; Spain 4.8. Live cattle to Italy, 16.6 mil.; Greece, 16.1; Austria, 8.4. Hemp to Austria, 18.1; Hungary, 6.5; Germany, 5.7 mil. dinars.

The chief countries receiving goods from Yugoslavia were:—

	Tons.	Mil. dinars.	Percentage.
Italy	412,100	662.7	29.15
Austria	122,061	422.7	18.59
Czecho-slovakia	83,234	250.4	11.01
Greece	91,659	165.4	7.28
Germany	28,758	141.6	6.23
Hungary	85,700	138.3	6.09
Roumania	47,003	111.5	4.91
Switzerland	12,169	82.4	3.63
France	20,501	74.6	3.28
Bulgaria	12,614	56.9	2.51
Other countries	101,169	166.7	7.32

During the first quarter of last year the corresponding percentages were:—Austria, 31.31; Italy, 28.87; Czecho-Slovakia, 7.46; Germany, 6.55; Hungary, 6.07; Greece, 4.50; France, 2.97; Switzerland, 2.83; England, 2.10; Turkey, 1.88.

CROP CONDITIONS IN YUGO-SLAVIA.

Report for Period, April 1 to 15, 1925.

General Condition.

Winter and spring sowings seem favourable throughout the Kingdom, and the quality, taking the Kingdom as a whole, between very good and good.

Winter Sowings.

In the middle of April winter sowings were:—*excellent*, in the departments of Vranje; *very good*, in the departments of Maribor, Danube, Valjevo, Shumadia, Timok, Nish, Skoplje, Bregalnitsa, Bitolj, Rashka, Uzhitse, Krushevatz, Tuzlan and Vrbas; *from good to very good* in the departments of Liubliana, Srem, Bachka, Podrinje,

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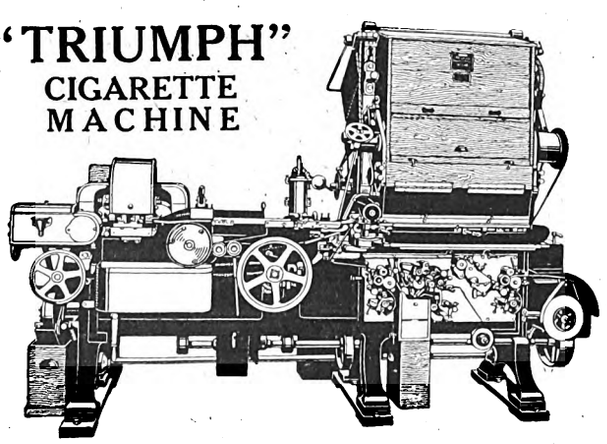

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and Bihach; *good* in the departments of coastal Kraijshka, Osek, Belgrade, Morava, Zeta, Split, Dubrovnik and Sarajevo; *poor* in the Travnik department.

Spring Sowings.

As a result of sufficient moisture and favourable climatic conditions, spring sowings, wherever made, are developing satisfactorily.

Weather Conditions.

During the first half of April, weather throughout the Kingdom was unsteady and changeable. The month began warm, then turned cold, with a mild frost which, however, did no damage to crops. Sufficient rain has been received generally. Drought has been felt in the Osek department, and insufficient rain in Srem and Nish. Rain has had a favourable influence on all crops, which have hitherto progressed satisfactorily. Fine hail fell in some departments, but did no damage to the fields.

Field Work.

As a result of the favourable weather, ploughing for maize has begun, and in the warmer parts maize has already been sown. Sowing of root and garden crops continues everywhere. In the south, the thinning and sprinkling of the poppy has been completed.

Pests.

Cryptogamous diseases did not appear in the first half of April. Of entomological pests lice have appeared in some municipalities of certain departments, but no considerable damage seems to have been done by them. Field mice are appearing in much smaller numbers.

Conditions of Stock.

The general condition of stock throughout the Kingdom is favourable. In some departments swine fever and sheep scab have appeared here and there.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

BELGRADE, April 30, 1925.

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	72,388,529 15	
Silver	17,458,076 20	
Foreign Bank Notes	2,447,255 70	
At Call in Foreign Countries	349,944,587 59	
		442,238,448 64
Portfolio Bills	1,065,507,501 94	
Advances on Securities	198,093,289 75	
		1,263,600,791 69
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,906 76
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367.975,010 74
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138,377,163 —
Sundries		512,059,917 91
		8,876.974.272 74
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		27,761,800 —
Legal Reserve		6,212,570 73
Bank Notes in Circulation		5,671,023,400 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,975,010 74
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	306,172,457 66	
Special Accounts	286,064,592 61	
		592,237,050 27
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		73,387.278 —
		8,876,974,272 74

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar' an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined, silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6 per cent, loan on securities 8 per cent.

FUR PRICES VARIABLE.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association (Inc.) on the spring raw fur skin sales states:—

Having regard to the generally quiet state of trade since the beginning of the year, the London spring sales were very well attended both by home and foreign buyers. On the whole the results must be considered satisfactory, considering the large quantities of goods offered and the substantial proportion actually sold. Whilst there was a tendency towards easier rates, in many instances prices were well maintained and the level of values may therefore be regarded as on a sound basis. The Home Trade bought with moderation; France and Germany accorded good support; and America purchased freely. But for the fact that the Leipsic Easter Fair synchronised with the London sales the attendance of Continental buyers would have been larger. The comparison of prices is with those of January last.

Unaltered: American badger; bears; civet cat; fitch; blue fox; South American fox; baum marten; nutria; American opossum; wolverine.

Advanced: Beaver, 5 per cent.: again taken principally for America; Russian ermine, 10 per cent.; fisher, full January prices; red fox, best sections sold at full January prices, the lower grades being unaltered; silver fox, finest skins sold at full January prices, the lower grades declined 25 per cent.: an exceptionally large offering which contained very few fine skins; white hare in good demand at full last prices; lynx, 20 per cent., principally sold for America; mink, 10 per cent.; black musquash, 10 per cent.; southern musquash, 10 per cent.; wolf, best sections 30 per cent., and were bought principally for America: lower grades declined 15 per cent.; fur seals, full January prices.

Declined: Russian badger, slightly easier; American ermine, slightly easier; cross fox, 10 per cent.; grey fox, 20 per cent.; white fox, 15 per cent.; kolinsky, 15 per cent.: many remain unsold; Persian lamb, very few sold at slightly easier prices, mostly withdrawn, limits being too high: those sold declined 10 to 15 per cent.; leopard, 12½ per cent.; American marten, pale skins unaltered: others declined 15 per cent.; stone marten, 10 per cent.; monkey, 20 per cent.; brown musquash, 15 per cent.; otter, 15 per cent.; raccoon, slightly easier; Russian sable, where sold declined 15 per cent.; skunk, a large collection, declined 15 per cent.

A WEEKLY SERVICE TO CYPRUS.

It is announced that the Khedivial Mail Line will institute as from June 2 a weekly mail and passenger service between Egypt (Alexandria and Port Said) and Cyprus (Famagusta, Larnaca and Limassol), which will connect at Port Said with the outward and homeward mail steamers of the P. and O. Co. Thus it will be possible, travelling overland to or from Marseilles by the P. and O. Bombay express, to make the journey between London and Famagusta in seven days. The service is to be continued until the end of September, when the ten days' service will be resumed.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Rolled Tyres.—H.M. Consul at Sarajevo reports that a local firm is anxious to receive tenders from British manufacturers for the supply of 1,000 rolled tyres (for railway wagon wheels) of Siemens-Martin steel. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Steel Underframes.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 40 steel underframes for coaching stock. June 15.

Paper.—The Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol manilla, binding cloth, and stitching wire. June 29.

TURKEY.

Iron Wire, Etc.—The Direction General of Posts and Telegraphs, Stamboul, Constantinople, invites tenders for the supply of 365 tons of iron wire, 2 tons bronze wire, and 5,000 copper couplings. July 7. (D.O.T.)

It is reported that Professor Mrazec, formerly Secretary-General to the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, has been appointed to resume negotiations in Paris and London, with a view to obtaining an indemnity for Roumania as compensation for damage to the country's oil industry during the War.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed by the Government of Palestine Department of Customs, Excise and Trade that the Chief British Representative, Trans-Jordan Government, Amman, is desirous of receiving British catalogues, lists, pamphlets, etc., in connection with the following subjects:—Construction of roads, construction of buildings, construction of bridges, construction of water supply, irrigation and drainage, sanitation.

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EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

The fourth annual general meeting of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation was held in London, on May 21. The Earl of Derby, president of the council of the Corporation, who presided, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the slight improvement in the cotton trade which he mentioned last October had continued, but had not developed as fast as one had hoped, and he was not very hopeful about any further marked improvement in the immediate future. Meanwhile, the general interest in Empire grown cotton had continued, and he could safely say that the coming crop would exceed that of last year. The number of 400 lb. bales grown in the Empire, exclusive of India, was in round figures 169,000 in 1922-23, and 249,000 in 1923-24, while the estimated crop for this year, 1924-25, is 350,000 bales.

With regard to this increase he said it would be idle and foolish to pretend that it was due entirely either to the Corporation or to the British Cotton-Growing Association. The direct causes had been the scarcity and consequent high prices of raw material. That it had been possible to increase production so quickly had been due to the spade work of those two bodies, and it was to the spade work that they must look if increased production was to continue in spite of a supply that was more nearly equal to the world's demand and a consequent fall in price for the actual grower.

Lord Derby went on to refer to the prospects in the various parts of the Empire. As regards the position in the Sudan he said:—When last I addressed you I stated that the political situation in the Sudan was obscure. I need not remind you of the events which followed the murder in Cairo of Sir Lee Stack, the Governor-General and it is too early for me to prophesy, or even to say, that the situation is absolutely stable. As regards cotton, however, there has been continuous progress and endeavour, not only to develop the Gezira as an irrigated area, but to ascertain the possibilities of the Southern Sudan as a rain-grown cotton field. On the whole, the prospects in this direction are very promising, but great transport difficulties must be overcome before it will be possible to export large quantities of cotton from that area. At least we may feel certain that Sir Geoffrey Archer, the new Governor-General, will do everything in his power to make the Sudan rival Uganda, the Protectorate from which he came, in the matter of cotton production."

Referring to India, Lord Derby said that he welcomed anything that would strengthen the ties between the corporation and the Indian Central Cotton Committee. They were anxious to make this co-operation stronger and stronger as time went on, and would always be ready to do anything at this end which could be of assistance. He proceeded to emphasise the constant need in all parts of the Empire for trained men. There was no doubt that the Corporation could place as many men as they trained. The Executive Committee had agreed to accept this year as many candidates for studentships as were found to be qualified and suitable for employment. Unfortunately, it would be some years before their students could be regarded as experts, and experts were the men most needed at this moment.

The adoption of the report was formally seconded and carried without discussion, and subsequently Colonel French gave an account of his visit to East Africa and India. Mr. R. H. Brackenbury dealt with the transport problem in cotton-growing countries, with special reference to the corporation's decision to carry out trials on roadless vehicles driven by flexible tracks instead of wheels.

Report of the Administrative Council.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the administrative council which was presented at the meeting:—

At the last genral meeting it was reported that in consequence of the report by Sir John Russell and Dr. H. M. Leake on the organisation of scientific work bearing on agriculture in the Sudan the corporation had undertaken to provide a cotton breeder so soon as a man with the necessary high qualifications could be found. They are pleased to be able to report that the appointment has now been accepted by Mr. M. A. Bailey, formerly head of the botanical staff of the Cotton Research Board, Giza. Mr. Bailey is returning to this country for a short period of intensive study leave at Cambridge, and he will take up his appointment in the Sudan in August.

The lack of men adequately trained to act as agricultural officers in the Colonies and Dependencies has always constituted a serious obstacle to the rapid development of cotton growing. The corporation, and before them the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of the Board of Trade, fully recognised this fact, and every year since 1919 studentships have been awarded to enable suitably qualified men to be trained in research methods, or to take advanced courses of instruction in those subjects that are of special importance to cotton growing. By means of these studentships nineteen men have already been trained, while sixteen are in training this year. Of the nineteen who have completed their training, nine have received appointments under the Corporation, three hold posts under the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and five have received appointments under the Colonial Office in Nigeria, Uganda, and Iraq. Nevertheless, there is still a shortage of well-trained agriculturists and scientific specialists, such as entomologists and mycologists, and the executive committee have accordingly, for the second year in succession, put no limit to the number of studentships to be offered, though they have stipulated definitely that the standard required shall in no way be lowered and that studentships shall only be given to thoroughly qualified candidates. Two senior and two junior studentships have been allocated this year to men in South Africa who will be selected by Mr. Milligan on behalf of the corporation.

TENDERERS TO EGYPTIAN STATE RAILWAYS, Etc.

The following notice appears in the *Egyptian Railway Advertiser*:—

The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones Administration maintains for certain important supplies lists of manufacturers to whom alone it sometimes restricts eligibility to tender.

As the lists now in use have been in existence for a considerable period, and as many firms have changed their character or status during the last ten years, it is intended to revise these lists during the current year, the present categories which are described later in this notice being rearranged at the same time. It may be necessary to restrict the lists when an adequate number of approved suppliers has been registered.

All manufacturers who wish to be registered must apply to the General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones in Cairo, quoting reference number 129.45/7. All such applications must be made before 15th October, 1925. The Administration may, however, close the list for any category at an earlier date if sufficient approved firms have been registered.

The Administration reserves the right to accept or refuse applications, without giving its reasons, whether the applicant has previously been approved or not, also to extend the period of application as it may deem fit.

Firms who are included in current lists *are required* to *reapply* as a sign that they still exist and retain an interest in the matter.

The unrevised categories which, as stated above, will be rearranged, are as follows:—Wheels and tyres; boilers, general machinery and machine tools; bolts, nuts and woodscrews; bridges; carriages; cast iron chairs; cement; electrical materials; steam motor coaches; fire extinquishing apparatus; iron and steel, etc.; lifting machinery; lighting materials; locomotives; lubricating oils; paints and oils; permanent way materials; points and crossings; printing machines; pumps; rails, fishplates and saddles; rolling stock spare parts; sanitary fittings; signalling material; iron sleepers; roofing and sheds; steel buildings; sundries; telegraph and telephone materials; tools; turntables; tubes; varnishes; waggons; water plant; weighing apparatus.

Combinations of firms should make very clear in the applications the names and addresses of their component members. Failing exceptional reasons applications must be submitted by firms themselves and not by their agents.

The Imperial Bank of India has lowered its rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent.

The wholesale price index number in India for April was 169, compared with 168 for March.

The Bulgarian brigand, Yossifoff, has been killed near Tatar Pazarjik. Reports from the provinces indicate that the efforts of the authorities to round up brigands are meeting with some measure of success and the fact that the wheat crop promises to be excellent makes the peasantry disinclined to take part in any activities of the bands.

A notice issued by the Turkish Direction of the Mercantile Marine to steamship owners and agents states that the agency of the Dardanelles Lighthouses has now recommenced operations, and offices have been reopened in the Dardanelles at Kavak and Gallipoli where dues may be paid by vessels making the passage of the Straits, as well as at the principal Dues Office at Constantinople. It is added that in default of payment of light dues at one of the above-mentioned offices vessels will be charged at triple rates.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ABOUKIR COMPANY.

The report of the year ended March 31, 1925, states that sales of land amounted to 29 feddans 11 kirats 7 sahms, sold by instalments for £2,898. Thirteen purchasers ceded back to the company 128 feddans 12 kirats 21 sahms, which have been added to the estates account at a cost of £4,001. The cotton crop again gave an increased yield, the improvement being 28 per cent. over that of the previous year. The varieties grown were Pillion and Affifi. The price obtained was £7 14s. 8d., as against £6 19s. 2d. The gross receipts from purchasers amounted to £17,923, of which £12,498 went to the reduction of their instalments, as against £12,067. The profit from these payments amounted to £8,305, as against £7,262. The rent for 1924 was paid in full, together with a portion of the old arrears, the credit to profit and loss being £25,361, as against £22,171. The balance brought forward of £1,121, added to the profit for the year of £12,542, makes £13,663, from which has been deducted for income-tax for the year £1,916, leaving a balance of £11,747. The appeal of the Crown against the decision of the General Commissioners for income-tax in the excess profits duty case is still pending in the High Court. The directors, therefore, propose to defer the consideration of the declaration of a dividend until the result of the appeal is known. Meeting, Palmerston House, E.C.2, to-day, noon.

IONIAN BANK ISSUE.

The Ionian Bank, Ltd., has decided to offer to the existing shareholders the balance of the unissued capital, 22,884 shares, at the price of £5 per share *pro rata* to the holding of each shareholder as at May 19. No fractions of shares will be issued. Provision is made for renunciation, and applicants have up to June 15 for lodging forms. A holding of five shares gives the right to apply for one new share, and each additional four shares entitles the holder to a further new share, and so on to 98, and thereafter proportionately. The instalments are payable as to £1 per share on application, £2 per share on July 31, and £2 on August 31 next. Interest will be paid on the instalments at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum from the date of payment to August 31 next. This interest will be paid at the time the final dividend is paid on the old shares in respect of the year ending August 31, 1925. Subsequently the new shares will rank pari passu with the old shares for all dividends declared.

LAND AND MORTAGAGE OF EGYPT.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31, 1925, states that, in view of the fact that the return of capital was not made until practically the end of the year under review, the directors have decided to recommend a dividend of 18 per cent. for the year, less tax. This is equivalent to the usual 6 per cent. on the former capital (£3 shares), but must not be taken as a precedent or as any indication of what future dividends may be. The gross receipts were £12,884, against £16,505, and the net profits £6,107, against £8,708. Adding the balance brought forward, £10,501, there is £16,608. After payment of the dividend of 18 per cent., the balance of £7,608 remains to be carried forward. Meeting, Cannon Street Station Hotel, E.C., May 29, noon.

The Roumanian Customs Commission has decided to reduce the export dues on oil. The duty of 1,000 lei per ton on heavy oils is reduced to 500 lei, and the 400 lei duty on light oils to 100 lei, the reductions to apply as from May 1 to September 30 next. At the same time the export fee of 3 lei on eggs has been reduced by one half.

The Turks have placed an order with the Fijenoord Company, of Rotterdam, for two submarines and for a 26,000-ton floating dock with the Flender Brueckenbau Company, of Luebeck. There were several competitors, including British firms, for both orders, but the failure of these latter, says *The Times* Constantinople correspondent, is taken as another indication that the Turks are fighting shy of British industry pending the Mosul settlement.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

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*ELYSIA, May 29.	*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.
*CIRCASSIA, June 12.	*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*OLYMPIA, June 26.	*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
*CASTALIA, July 7.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.
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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended May 14, state :—Since our last report the futures market has been quiet but firm for Sakel, and fairly active but weak for Uppers : the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis, 0.30 dollars up for May; 0.20 dollars up for July : 0.50 dollars down for November; 0.45 dollars down for January. Ashmouni 1.60 dollars down for June; 1.40 dollars down for August; 1.30 dollars down for October; 1.35 dollars down for December.

The position of the Sakel market is unchanged; the demand from abroad has continued negligible and commercial houses have kept almost entirely out of the market. The heavy discount of July and, more especially, of new crop options checks new business; furthermore, recent reports from the leading textile centres are not as encouraging as one would desire. The statistical position is certainly still very strong, but while the demand from abroad is as poor as it is at present, the influence of this strength can be but very relative. At the 2nd May tender Crs 500 dockets were issued. The Ashmouni market has been affected by the continued drop of New York prices. There has been a fair turnover of business and spinners have continued to buy on moderate lines. New crops have been dull and prices have again receded somewhat.

Spot.—Minet el Bassal has been a very poor market in general this week, and demand from abroad has fallen away still further. Sales amount to about 3,300 B/s of which we estimate 600 B/s Sakel, 2,500 B/s Uppers, 200 B/s Zagora and a few bales of Pilion.

Sakellarides : has met with a very small inquiry covering all grades. Spot differences are without much change but with a tendency to ease a little, holders being to some degree anxious to avoid carrying their cotton into July at the big discount which exists.

Ashmouni and Zagora : have met with a very fair inquiry and continue in much greater favour with spinners than Sakel. All styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are without much change except for the grades below Good Fair which are a little stiffer.

Pilion : Only a few bales have been done, at about last week's spot differences.

Brown and White : are neglected and no business is reported. Spot differences are without quotable change.

Crop 1925 : Climatic conditions this week have been, in general, favourable to the plant. The position in the Delta may be summed up in the following :—in about one-third of the total area under cotton the delay is serious whilst in the remaining two thirds the delay is less important and, given good weather, can be easily recovered. In Upper Egypt the state of the crop is about normal. No serious complaints of shortage of water have been heard so far.

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, June 9). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 29); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 6).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 30).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 3).

Johnstone Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 4).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, May 29); s.s. Perim for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 30).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, May 30).

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CZECHO-SLOVAK NEWS ITEMS.

Czecho-Slovak customs receipts in the last quarter of 1924 amounted to Kc 237,848,285, compared with Kc 215,544,577 in the corresponding period of 1923. The net yield of the tobacco monopoly during tht same quarter was Kc 239,633,258, compared with Kc 217,333,970 in 1923. The total revenue from both sources for the whole of 1914 was Kc 1,927,546,985 as against Kc 1,864,880,249 in the year 1923. The Czecho-Slovak 8 per cent. loan of £10,000,000 raised in London in 1922 is secured on the above revenues.

The index number of retail prices throughout Czecho-Slovakia in April shows a decline of 0.3 per cent. on the figure for the previous month. The monthly number this year has so far been as follows: January 928; February 911; March 904; April 901.

The official Gazette publishes details of some 60 items and 120 sub-items in the Customs tariff list, the import of goods under which is to be free from the necessity of licence. The major portion of Czecho-Slovak exports and imports have now been freed from the control and licence procedure.

The Zivnostenska Banka, Prague, the leading Czecho-Slovak bank, made net profits for 1924 of Kc 45,648,909. An ordinary dividend of 5 per cent, and a super dividend of 7 per cent., making together Kc 24 per share (last year Kc 28) was declared. A sum of Kc 12,157,575 has been placed to various reserves and Kc 2,345,287 carried forward. The deposits amount to some 1,445 million crowns.

The Moravian Agricultural and Industrial Bank, Bruo, made net profits in 1924 of Kc 13,538,635, compared with Kc 14,674,000 in 1923. A dividend of 5 per cent is being declared.

The value of Roumanian trade with Great Britain for the first quarter of this year was as follows:—Imports from Great Britain, £775,000; exports to Great Britain, £300,000.

East Indian Railway.—A meeting of the annuitants of classes "A," "B," "C," and "D" will be held at the Cannon Steet Hotel, on June 3, at 12.15 p.m.

It is reported that the Greek Government has signed an agreement with the National Bank of Greece authorising the latter to make advances under State guarantee to Greek refugees on the security of their real property in Turkey, up to a total of 50,000,000 drachmæ. No loan to any one individual may exceed 50,000 drachmæ.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97½	97⅜-97 $\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	278-280
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	292-295
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.11½-25.12½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{11}{16}$ 1-6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	97.45 -.50
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,045-1,055
Budapest	Kronen to £ ...	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{11}{16}$1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	880-895
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.86$\frac{1}{8}$—.$\frac{1}{4}$
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	95 60 -.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	1?1.30—.40
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42¼
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.45-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.25-25.35

National Insurance Companies.
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(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
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Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
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CHESS.

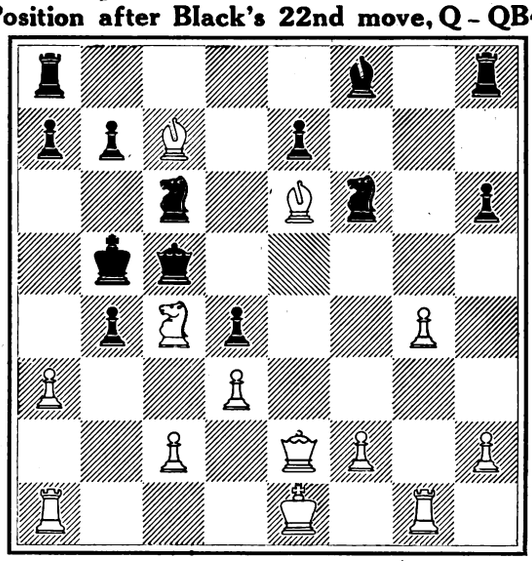
By "CARO-KANN."

There is quite an unusual number of international tournaments this year. Following the Baden-Baden event, where Alechin gained a most meritorious victory, comes the Marienbad tournament which commenced at the end of last week. There are sixteen entries for this event, the competitors being E. Grunfeld, A. Haida, D. Janowski, F. J. Marshall, R. P. Michell, D. Niemzowitch, R. Opocensky, D. Przepiorka, R. Reti, A. Rubinstein, F. Samish, R. Spielman, Dr. S. Tartakower, Sir G. A. Thomas, C. Torre, and F. D. Yates. It will be noticed that England has three representatives as against two at Baden-Baden.

If chess pursues an intermittent career in the chief clubs in London and the provinces during the summer, it is even more quiet at Oxford and Cambridge, where the shadow of examinations this term puts any such pursuits out of court. Next October there is likely, however, to be special activity in the University clubs, for Oxford now needs only one more win to equal Cambridge's score in the long series of matches. Up to 1904 Cambridge had a long lead, but since that date Oxford has only lost on two occasions, 1910 and 1919. Of course the tide is bound to turn sooner or later, but it must be admitted that another two or three wins for Oxford before it does would greatly add to the interest of the matches.

The following game was played in the recent Bromley tournament between Mr. R. E. Lean (White) and Mr. F. Apscheneek (Black):—1, Kt—QB3, P—Q4; 2, Kt—B3 (1), P—Q5 (2); 3, Kt—K4, P—KB4; 4, Kt—Kt3, P—B4; 5, P—K4, BPxP; 6, KtxP, Q—Q4: 7, B—Kt5 (ch), Kt—B3; 8, Q—K2, Kt—B3; 9, P—Q3, B—Kt5; 10, B—QB4, Q—R4; 11, Kt—Q6 (ch), K—Q2; 12, Kt—B7, BxKt; 13, B—K6 (ch), K—B2; 14, B—B4 (ch), K—Kt3; 15, PxB, R—KKt: 16, R—KKt, P—KR3; 17, P—Kt4, PxP; 18, Kt—K5, R—R; 19, P—QR3, P—Kt4; 20, Kt—B4 (ch), K—Kt4; 21, B—QB7, P—Kt5;

Position after Black's 22nd move, Q - QB4.



22, BPxP, Q—QB4; 23, Kt—Q6 (ch) (3), PxKt; 24, B—B4 (ch), QxB; 25, PxQ (ch), K—B4; 26, K—B, R—K; 27, Q—B3, Kt—K5; 28, PxP (ch), KtxP; 29, K—Kt2, K—B3; 30, B—R5, KtxQBP; 31, Q—B5, Kt—B4; 32, QxKt (B2), B—Kt2; 33, QR—K, B—K4; 34, P—B4, BxP; 35, Q—Kt, P—R3; 36, Q—Kt6 (ch), resigns.

(1) A typical example of a modern opening.
(2) This kind of manœuvre is never to be recommended.
(3) A very pretty sacrifice.

At the extra-ordinary general meeting of the Cyprus Asbestos Company, Ltd., held at Limassol, Cyprus, on April 27, a resolution increasing the capital of the company from £300,000 to £600,000 by the creation of 292,500 new preferred shares of £1 each and 150,000 new deferred shares of 1s. each, ranking pari passu with the existing shares, was duly passed by the requisite majority.

The Barsi Light Railway Co. have placed orders with the United Steel Co., Workington, for 5,000 tons of rails and steel sleepers, and with Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, Birmingham, for fishbolts and nuts.

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Reserve Fund - - - - **£190,000**
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Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

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(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 734.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Yugoslavia and Greece.

The long delay in the conclusion of a treaty of alliance between Greece and Yugoslavia, to replace the one denounced last year by the latter country, has pointed for some weeks past to a hitch in the negotiations. Discussions between representatives of the two States were first opened in Athens; an adjournment to Belgrade was the first indication of difficulties having arisen, although official reports on both sides were invariably couched in optimistic language. It has now been revealed that the trouble is over the Salonika-Ghevgheli railway. This line was originally owned by a French company. During the War it was requisitioned by the Greek Government; but owing to a dispute over the amount of the indemnity to be paid, the railway was not handed back. Two years ago the Greek Government of the day was urged by a disinterested Power to regulate this railway question, and the method then recommended was to internationalize the line. Greece, however, showed herself suspicious of the advice and took no action in the matter. It has since transpired that at about the same time the Yugoslav Government purchased from the French company all its rights over the sections of the railway in Yugoslav territory, while a Yugoslav company purchased, on terms that suggested co-operation, if not identification, with the Belgrade Government, the French company's rights in Greek territory and all its claims against the Greek Government.

The Bone of Contention.

As the price of her alliance Yugoslavia now claims from Greece control over the railway between Ghevgheli and Salonika, as well as an extension of the Free Zone at the latter town. The state of this line during the last few years and its unsatisfactory administration might in themselves be held in Yugoslavia to justify the claim, but the Belgrade Government has been careful to base its contention on ground that cannot be cut away by a promise on the part of the Greeks to do better in the future. In spite of Adriatic railway schemes in embryo, Yugoslavia is dependent in regard to sea-ports on Fiume-cum-Shushak and Salonika. The value of the former in the case of emergencies is considered to be problematical, and for this reason there is a marked anxiety to make more sure of Salonika, particularly in view of the risk run during the War of having the port closed on the plea of neutrality. The Greek Government is entitled to sympathy in its unfortunate dilemma. It sets considerable store on an alliance with Yugoslavia, if only as a means of rendering designs on Salonika more difficult; but to embody in the terms of the alliance clauses which make the ultimate absorption of the port by Yugoslavia much easier is irony in an extreme form. The subject would afford a detached moralist in the Balkans with a valuable text. Each of the four States of the Balkan Peninsula has causes for anxiety in regard to its foreign relations; but none will abate claims, where it is in a position to enforce them, for the sake of winning friendship that may stand it in good stead on other occasions. If the ring is cleared for Greece and Yugoslavia, the ultimate fate of Salonika is not difficult to guess; but at no time since the end of the War has Greece tried to safeguard herself by promoting a permament settlement of the Balkan question that would pave the way for a federation. On the contrary, in common with others, she has taken advantage of the weakness of others when in a position to do so and is now experiencing a similar fate herself.

Bulgaria's Burden.

The Conference of Ambassadors has refused to grant the request of the Bulgarian Government for permission to extend over a short period the disbandment of the ten thousand additional soldiers recruited at the beginning of May for service against the Communist bands. It was stipulated at the time that these additional troops should be retained with the colours only until May 31; but the reason for the short period of service was never apparent, and it is difficult to understand the objection to disbandment, say, at the rate of three thousand men a fortnight. The concession would at least have convinced the Bulgarians that the policy of vindictive bullying, which hitherto has paid little or no heed to their attempts to atone for their War guilt, was gradually coming to an end. As things are, they must derive what consolation they can from the fact that the objections of their neighbours to the temporary increase of the army were overruled by the Conference of Ambassadors, and that immediate disbandment entails a corresponding relief for the Exchequer. That there is something amiss in the state of Bulgaria is obvious to anyone who studies conditions in the country, unless he belongs to the category of those who can act towards the Bulgarian people only on the the principle of hanging a dog because he has been given a bad name. A whole nation, however, cannot be got rid of in this way, and the punishment inflicted has the effect of fostering a cancerous growth in the body politic of Europe. Unless this growth is to be allowed to spread indefinitely, an impartial examination of economic conditions in Bulgaria will have to be undertaken. Whatever the degree of culpability that individual opinion elects to attach to the Government, there can hardly be any doubt that the burden of taxation and the resultant poverty of the country have played into the hands of subversive elements, whether Communist or otherwise.

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Albania Again.

June and December are the recognised months for a revolution in Albania, and, whatever may be the actual position in the country, the Belgrade Press has been careful to let the Albanians know that the time has come round for the regulation rising. The trouble on this occasion is located in the south; it would have been tactless on the Albanians' part to have engineered a second revolution from the northern frontier so soon after the last. An Albanian exile in Yugoslavia, however, is said to be implicated, and is lending his Katchaks, or *Kachacci* (irregular bands, not the name of a general as a contemporary has it), to Mgr. Fan Noli. Another side to the picture is supplied by the Albanian Legation in London, which has issued the following statement: "Various rumours from foreign sources have recently been in circulation reporting revolutionary outbreaks in Southern Albania. These statements are entirely without foundation, for perfect tranquillity reigns throughout the country." Misunderstandings over dates and times are a common cause for the breakdown of concerted military arrangements, and if the Belgrade Press is going to make itself responsible for revolutions in Albania, it should be careful to see that its watches are properly synchronised and not to place too much faith on calendar fixtures.

Desert Route to Baghdad.

A telegram from Baghdad announces that Mr. Norman Nairn, the pioneer of the motor mail service between Haifa and Baghdad, by way of Beyrout and Damascus, has recently crossed the Syrian Desert from Jerusalem *via* Amman to Baghdad with two cars in thirty-two hours. The object of the expedition was to test the possibility of a motor service to Baghdad over a route that would be entirely within British mandated territory. Although the attitude of the French authorities in Syria towards the British-owned mail service to Baghdad has been correct, they have made no secret of their desire to obtain financial control of the organisation, if the service is to continue to use French mandated territory. For the Nairn Transport Company, therefore, it would be more satisfactory if the route traversed by the service could be within British mandated territory. The desert from Amman to Baghdad has often been traversed by motor convoys, employed to mark out or to renew the track followed by the Air Mail from Cairo to Baghdad, but until last week's journey undertaken by Mr. Nairn, accompanied by Wing-Commander Primrose, Chief of Staff to the Palestine Command, no attempt has been made to maintain the rate of speed required to cover the 680 miles in thirty-two hours. Practically the only portion of the route presenting any difficulty is the stretch of lava country encountered in the stage betwen Amman and Kasr-el-Azrak, a Roman outpost, with Roman and Crusader remains and fresh-water pools in which carp are still to be found. Here it will be necessary, for the purpose of a regular service, to carry out some road construction. The advantages of an All-British-Mandated-Route are obvious, and it is to be hoped that the Palestine Government will decide that the financial benefits to be derived from keeping the mail service wholly within Palestine and Trans-Jordan until Iraq is reached will justify an outlay on whatever road-making may be found necessary.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Communist Conference.

At least some of the Home Secretary's ubiquitous indignation has at last been concentrated upon something definite: the exclusion of alien Communists from the Communist Conference at Glasgow. Hitherto it has been the fashion of authority in this country to treat the alien agitator with a lenient show of indifference, the assumption apparently being that the very sight and sound of the horrid breed would of themselves be sufficient to dissuade the Englishman, or, rather, the Briton from attempting to follow him.

Now, however, a different view of the matter is being taken, and energetic steps are being, and have been, taken to restrict the influence of alien principles. Against British Communists, of course, there is nothing being done—the immunity of MacManus, of the famous MacManus letter, is evidence of that. And if these aliens from Moscow and the rest of the cosmopolitan East wished to come here merely to expose plans for the destruction of Capitalism, they would probably be allowed to do so: it is because they are wholly subversive, and aim at abolishing the institutions that the Brition has held dear for centuries, that the present measures are being approvingly taken against them.

United Liberals.

Last week the Liberals, consisting of at least three groups, possibly more, made a valiant attempt to show the external appearance of unity by combining to attack the Speaker on the ground that he had neglected the interests of minorities. Of course, the whole thing fell flat, the Labour Party voting with the Conservatives in their support of the Speaker. It was a most pathetic exhibition of mistaken policy, and one cannot conceive that it had any other objective than to unite the party. If this were the object, it failed miserably.

The view is now being taken, indeed, that the disunity of the Liberal Party is its most hopeful sign, and that its several independences are the most gratifying manifestations of vitality. However, the fact that Lord Oxford the other day foreshadowed a great revival of Liberalism was greeted with a good deal of scepticism, if not hilarity. In the House, at any rate, only two non-Liberals voted for the motion of censure—Mr. Dunnico and Mr. Scrymgeour. Converts such as these hardly indicate a softening of the electorate's heart.

The House of Commons.

It is not to be supposed that this attack by the Liberals on the Speaker has endeared them any more to the Conservatives, and one rather wonders, if the Liberals still further decrease, what the House of Commons will become. In the old days, of course, Conservatives and Liberals were at one on everything except voting: they lived, dined, played together. Their differences, when they were sincere, were of opinion only. Now the House is different, for the Opposition is one in fact as well as in opinion. Conservatives and the Labour Party do not live together socially, and it may well be that, if the Liberals continue in such tactics as arouse the contempt of the Conservatives, they will so dwindle as to make Labour the only opposition. Then party politics will be a real affair again.

Individual Liberals, of course, such as Sir Alfred Mond, are, curiously enough, very popular with the commercial type of Conservative, being accounted "safe," but the younger, more fiery members of the party are by no means to the liking of the great mass of Tories.

The Oldham By-Election.

There is a refreshing sense of venturesomeness in the decision of the Government, by appointing Sir Edward Grigg to Kenya, to have a by-election at Oldham, one of the districts affected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals to tax silk. Thus to challenge your enemy in his own camp savours at least of conviction in your scheme. But, as they are saying now, Mr. Churchill has a silk-worm in his garden and "cannot budge it." The opposition to his scheme does not tend to decrease, at least according to the Press. How reliable a judge journals are will be seen if the Government decide to run a candidate in opposition to the Liberals and Labour at Oldham.

The Oxford Chancellorship.

Despite the support of the Earl of Birkenhead, the Earl of Oxford and Asquith appears to have a good chance of being appointed to the Chancellorship of the University of Oxford. There has been some faint attempt, which surely did not originate in Oxford, to make of this matter of the Chancellorship a party contest, but it does not look like succeeding. Obviously the Conservatives have no one of the intellectual standing of Viscount Grey or of the

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Earl of Oxford, and when one remembers the reputation of Oxford as the home (or, rather, the refuge) of lost causes, the claims of the latter statesman appear to be overwhelmingly strong.

Controversy in the Church.

The big battle between what roughly may be called the Anglo-Catholics and the Broad and Low Churches has not yet begun, but a sufficient number of preliminary skirmishes have been indulged in for one to see over which field the main engagement will be waged. The whole dispute is centreing more and more upon the Reformation. What was the Reformation; what did the Reformation accomplish? The orthodox Anglican Churchman likens the Church of England before the Reformation to a man before he has had his face washed. The Catholic regards the Reformation as the selecting and the perpetuating of the worst elements in the Mediæval Church.

Between these two views, there seems, if one may judge from the letters in the Press, to be no hope of compromise. Both sides appeal to History, but both sides appear to be equally unwilling to study the other's historians.

Certainly a clash is coming, unless the orthodox Churchman is content to let the ground be mined beneath his feet. But how it will result it is far too early to estimate.

America and England.

Of all the stupid "dope" that historians and politicians, particularly the latter, have ever "put over" us, that which concern the common Anglo-Saxon blood of America and Great Britain is the emptiest and most misleading. In the first place, the debt of Britain to the Angles and Saxons is far from being exactly known, and every fresh historical discovery appears to minimise the debt, while as for America, talk of Anglo-Saxon blood there is simply monstrous. Even Dean Inge, who has just returned thence, and who certainly does not underestimate the potentialities of the Anglo-Saxon race, was impelled to report the presence in New York alone of so many Semites that he raised an outcry among the sensitive.

This, however, is merely by way of introducing a term of praise to the new American Ambassador in London, Mr. Houghton. In two or three speeches Mr. Houghton has already said more words of truth that other diplomatists have said in a lifetime. He makes no bones about the plain attitude of the American people to the question of international debts; nor does he waste time on the supposition that the American nation is but a later edition of the "Anglo-Saxon" people. But while he has been uttering these sensible, and, in consideration of his position, courageous truths, our own statesmen when assisting at his functions, have, one is sorry to see, been letting slip all the old ridiculous platitudes about "blood being thicker than water," the heavy flapdoodle about "common ideals," the literary "blah" about the "tongue of Shakespeare," and so on. The mirage over England seems to be thicker than that over the United States.

Pastoral Landscapes.

Quite one of the smoothest and most pleasing exhibitions now to be found in London is that of the "pastoral" water-colours at Walker's Galleries, Bond Street. There is work shown here by the best British artists, done in the best national traditions. The word "pastoral" is rightly given a wide significance: Gerald Ackermann, for instance, finds this quality in the landscape in the marshes of Cley, Anthony Raine-Barker in the Rye flats, Albert Goodwin in the half-lights of Ely, Fred Stratton in the land of the Cuckmere Valley, and so on.

If one had to chose which pictures were the finest, one would point, not to the soft loveliness of the representations of the South of England, nor to those of the harder and greyer North, nor even to those of the mellow West, but rather to the clouded beauty of the East Anglian scenes, of which, notably, Messrs. Gerald Ackermann and Edward Vulliamy have made so vigorous and so beautiful sketches. The exhibition is open until June 17, and should be visited by all those who know England by other means than motor or train.

ALTER EGO.

A ROUMANIAN ARTIST.

The visit to London of M. George Enesco, the Roumanian composer, some at least of whose works are well known to our audiences, caused much enthusiasm at the Queen's Hall on May 29. In addition to playing the violin solo part in Bach's Concerto in E major and in Chausson's "Poême," M. Enesco conducted the London Symphony Orchestra in the "Dance of the Theban Shepherds, Theban Women and Warriors," from his "Oedipus."

M. Enesco, who now lives in Paris, was born at Cordaremi in 1881, but left his country at the age of seven for Vienna, proceeding thence to Paris. He is an extremely versatile musician, for in addition to being a composer, he is a violinist, 'cellist, and pianist.

As a fiddler, M. Enesco, who was playing under M. Sokoloff, who is conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, U.S.A., is a very capable but hardly a great performer. In the Bach concerto he was, it is true, handicapped by the square rhythms of the conductor and the poor playing of the orchestra, but his own rhythm and tone were scarcely individual. In the Chausson he was able better to reproduce the romance that informs his best playing. It was while conducting his own work, a thing of vivid dance forms, with not a little clash and manner of the Orient in it, that he aroused most enthusiasm. From his percussion instruments and wind instruments in particular he drew some notable playing, and certainly his orchestration was most effective.

Many observers think that the revivification of Western music will come from its being infused with Eastern thoughts and modes, and in such a process M. Enesco's compositions are likely to obtain considerable prominence. It is one of this composer's beliefs, apparently, that Roumania, musically as in other ways, is a Latin country, but he may better serve the cause of Music if he emphasises in his compositions some of the influences which successive waves from the East have left on his country. His own "Oedipus" for instance had far more significance than had fragments from Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe," and in the future history of music—who knows?—Bucharest may supply more inspiriation than does Paris.

K. W.

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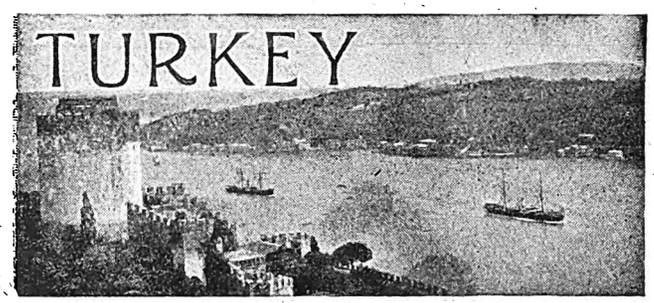
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Constantinople, May 19.

Improving Constantinople.

The return of Dr. Emine Bey, the Prefect of Constantinople, from his visit to Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, has been the signal for the recommencement by the Press of its publications concerning the proposed improvements and embellishments of the ex-capital. These articles, whilst retaining in some instances a tendency to sarcastic criticism, are by no means possessed of as open a ridicule as formerly made them so conspicuous. Whether this change is due to the fear that the punishment inflicted on some of their contemporaries for criticism of Government officials might be visited on them or to a sudden realisation that the Prefect's projects and hopes are practicable and to be put in execution is not clear, but it is gratifying to record the cessation of these discouraging publications. The Prefect's visit to the above three European capitals was made exclusively for the purpose of making a study of conditions there which could profitably be applied in Constantinople. Since his return here Dr. Emine Bey has been fully occupied in making arrangements for the execution of his principal projects, the advantages of which will doubtless soon be noticeable to the difficult and exacting public of Constantinople. Among other things, the town is to have a broadcasting station here which, in addition to the enjoyment it will bring, will be doubly acceptable as being something else criticizable. Yildiz Palace Park is, apparently, also to be exploited and put at the disposition of the public. The first, and, for the moment, the principal work of improvement to be undertaken is the reconstruction of the drainage system and new underground canalisation of the town, for which it is estimated ten million liras will be necessary. It is expected that the excavations which this work will necessitate will bring to light numerous precious antiquities, and it is possible that Constantinople may yet figure prominently among the possessors of the world's ancient treasures.

National Defence.

National Defence is a question which is now receiving very serious consideration by the Turkish Government, especially as regards the senior service and the air force. Various lotteries have been organised for the purpose of providing funds for the latter service, and further preparations are now being made for house-to-house canvassing for support of the scheme for the purchase of new aeroplanes. As regards the Navy, Ihsan Bey, the Minister of Marine, is at present engaged on a tour of inspection, after which he intends to make considerable changes. Contrary to what was previously reported, the engagement of the services of an admiral or other senior commander is not envisaged, as the Republic has no intention of confiding to foreign hands the command or organisation of its Navy. According to declarations made by Ihsan Bey to the Press, it is purposed to engage foreign specialists to be employed in naval training schools and others for submarine instruction and for technical branches. Various supplementary credits have been allotted to the Ministry of Marine, but as naval expenses are now judged the sum total of this Ministry's budget is comparatively small. Ihsan Bey is, however, determined to bring about a great improvement in the Navy, and he can be completely trusted to make the means at his disposal go as far as possible. Numerous important shipbuilding firms have been approached and requested to give estimates for the repair of the "Yavaz" (ex-Goeben), but even if the smallest of these estimates is accepted the payment will make a big hole in the Navy's budget. The Turkish Government will doubtless soon come to realise the mistake made and the advantages lost by their refusal to renew the Armstrong-Vickers concession, especially now that they are so anxious that their Navy should compare favourably with those of neighbouring States.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals, communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, May 22.

The Petite Entente.

On May 9, 10, and 11, M. Nintchitch, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, M. Benesh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czecho-Slovakia, and M. Duca, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, conferred together in Bucharest.

The representatives of these three Powers studied the foreign situation generally and exchanged their views on the current problems, giving to the Press *communiqués* and statements, from which it was comparatively easy to gauge the nature of their ultimate agreemnt.

It was not, of course, a case of debate on or discussion of controversial questions or interests, but rather an exchange of views on lines of conduct and the attitude to be adopted by the Little Entente towards the international political situation in its present unconsolidated state. It would appear that the Little Entente arrived at very interesting results. As regards Bulgaria and the Bolshevist peril, their utterances appear to be optimistic on the whole, and M. Benesh is of opinion that the international Bolshevist movement is on the decline. The Conference was not opposed to the increase of the Bulgarian army authorised by the Ambassadors' Conference so long as it did not involve the re-appearance of a military menace, for such a result, it considered, would not be justified by the

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present necessity of ending dangerous disturbances. As regards Hungary, a firm watching attitude was adopted, and it would appear that the Council of the Little Entente considers that the Hungarian Nationalists themselves might imperil the equilibrium established in Central Europe and the Balkans by the Statute of the Treaties which cannot in any way be revised. Consequently on this point as on others, the States of the Petite Entente have fixed a common political agreement and the eventual measures to be taken. With regard to the Austrian question, which was much discussed, the Petite Entente agreed to support by all possible means the economic re-establishment of that country in order to avoid the isolation of Austria which would inevitably lead to her return to Germany.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the reports of a new *rapprochement* between Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and also the fact that the negotiations at present going on between Yugoslavia and Greece tend to lead Poland and Greece into a parallel action, if not a fusion with the Petite Entente.

Thus the meetings of the allied representatives took place in the most cordial atmosphere, and it is pleasant to note the tightening of the bonds of this intimate and friendly collaboration, which cannot but contribute to the consolidation of peace in Europe.

The Death of M. Marghiloman.

The disappearance of the last of Roumania's brilliant Conservative statesmen has introduced important modifications in the ranks of the Opposition.

In the first place, it would appear that the hopes of General Averescu's party of coming to power are sadly damped. It will be remembered that the collaboration of M. Marghiloman's party with an Averescu Government would have been the basis of the new ministry of that party, and the authority of this statement was chiefly relied upon for the formation of such a ministerial combination.

The friends of M. Marghiloman have not yet made any statement on their attitude. Some of them are disposed simply to go over to the People's Party (General Averescu's). Others are inclined to maintain the *status quo* in the meantime under the direction of a provisory committee.

The United Opposition.

On Monday, May 4, the National Party and the Peasants' Party declared themselves for united action with a view to forcing the fall of the Liberal Government. It is not yet a question of fusion, but simply a definite plan of simultaneous action by the two groups to arrive at an early solution.

In order, however, to arrive at the necessary cohesion both parties would be obliged to silence the loud voices of personal enmities—which they seem to have been able to do. In spite, however, of this *rapprochement*, due to common interests, one must not build too great hopes on the achievement of results in the near future, nor indeed on the durability of the agreement.

Nevertheless the members of the National Party and of the Peasants' Party are very optimistic and thoroughly determined to pursue, as far as the law will permit, their efforts for the realisation of their plan, which includes, notably, the recruiting of the greatest possible number of partisans, and great demonstrations. Some of them even hope, that, thanks to the mutual action and sentiment which ensue from experiencing side by side their successes and failures in the political battle, a final and complete agreement may be reached.

The day before yesterday an imposing demonstration by the two parties took place in a meeting hall in the capital. The partisans numbering (according to the opposition Press), some 15,000, listened with the greatest enthusiasm to the various speeches made, and then dispersed in perfect order, admission to the centre of the city being barred by lines of soldiers.

Such demonstrations are hard blows to the Liberal Government, and if the new United Opposition is able to carry out the plans laid down it is generally considered that the Government will be obliged to use all the means in its power to stem the political tide.

Bucharest, May 26.

The "Revalorisation" of the Leu.

M. Vintila Bratiano has recently laid before the Chamber of Deputies a Bill for the prolongation for 30 years of the privileges of the National Bank and the ratification of certain conventions between the State and that institution. According to the judgment of the Minister of Finance and M. Oromolu, the Governor of the National Bank, these various measures are calculated to achieve the re-establishment of the value of the leu. Thus the question of the depreciation and the re-appreciation of the Roumanian currency, which until the present has aroused controversies mainly amongst economists and specialists, is entering upon a new phase, as a solution is being given to it by a practical decision which brings it into the direct field of interest of the whole country. Consequently its discussion is becoming general, bitter and violent, and in all probability this will be the field on which the hardest political fight between the Government and the united opposition will take place.

From the statements made both by M. Oromolu and M. Vintila Bratiano it would appear that they have an almost mystic faith in the vitality of Roumanian production, for in this case, as in every system of re-appreciation, it is on the shoulders of production that the load will fall during the period required for the rise in the value of the leu. M. Oromolu supports his views by statements said to have been made to him recently by Mr. Montague Norman, the Governor of the Bank of England, and by the results obtained in the appreciation of the pound sterling. Even if, however, the work of Mr. Montague Norman in this direction has been successful (not without considerable sacrifices), how can this be compared to the task of making the Roumanian leu recover the lost 97 per cent. of its value in the space of ten to fifteen years?

The reception given to the scheme by most competent judges shows that the Government and the National Bank are the only partisans of the doctrine of the Minister of Finance.

Last Sunday an important general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank took place and ratified unanimously the conventions drawn up. It is interesting to note that the Government expected some political demonstrations on this occasion, for the worthy shareholders were admitted to the meeting through a cordon of troops. An attempt was also made to exclude the representatives of the Press, but by the use of their own special genius in this direction a number of journalists gained admission to the hall and heard the debates, which passed off without incident.

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The United Opposition.

The united groups of the National Party and the Peasants' Party continue to carry out their programme for the overthrow of the Government. Last Sunday a large meeting was held at Craiova, the centre of the wealthy agricultural district of Oltenia, where the adherents of these groups assembled to the number, it is said, of 7,000. M. Maniu, M. Iorga, and M. Mihalache were among the principal speakers, and their words appear to have been received with loud acclamations when they attacked the Government's policy and emphasised the cohesion of their groups with a view to gaining their ends more rapidly. For next Sunday another meeting is arranged in Bucharest. The Government, though apparently allowing these meeting in the provinces, is much less in favour of such demonstrations in the Capital, where they excite public opinion and annoy the members of the Liberal Party, so that some trouble is expected.

On the other hand, the Liberal Government is well aware of the considerable legislative task which it still has to accomplish in order to carry out the programme it laid down when coming into power. For this reason it has been decided to hold three sittings of Parliament daily. But the deputies of the Opposition are determined to thwart by all practical obstructive means the progress of the debates and have developed a flow of oratory hitherto quite unsuspected in them. The Government retaliates by turning out of the Chamber the Opposition deputies who appear to be too active, arguing logically enough that the battle must cease at last for lack of combatants, or when their ranks are so thinned as to render them practically non-existent.

The Baldwin Case.

Judgment was given last week in the case brought against the Roumanian Government by the Baldwin Locomotive Company for the payment of a debt due to the latter. The Tribunal admitted the point of view adopted by the Counsel for the Government and decided the case against the claimants. Colonel Greble, the representative of Messrs. Baldwin, has left Bucharest disappointed. Apart from any discussion of the legal aspect of the case, one cannot help commenting on the bad impression made by this sentence, in foreign circles, and one is led to reflect on the repercussion which will certainly be produced in the United States, who have recently adopted rather a severe attitude towards the European States which are their debtors.

The Harvest.

Roumania, which of all the countries of Europe is able to produce the largest quantity of wheat for export, finds herself every spring in a fever of expectation and discussion as to the probable quality of the harvest. This year, thanks to the alternation of heat and abundant rains during the past month, the prognostications are growing more and more favourable, and some people go so far as to predict a record harvest, which would almost certainly lead to a rise in the value of the leu. Without exaggerating the repercussion of such an eventuality it can certainly be stated that such a harvest would have very considerable consequences for the national economy of this country.

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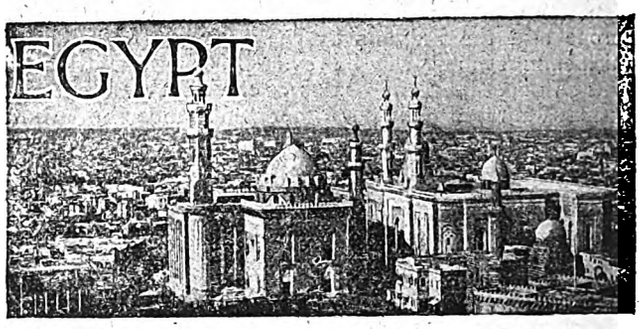

Cairo, May 23.

The High Commissionership.

By the time that this letter reaches you, your readers will have had full details of the reception given here in Egypt to the news of Lord Allenby's resignation and the appointment of Sir George Lloyd to succeed him. I will not, therefore, deal in any detail with this topic.

It may be said for certain that on the Egyptian side no one is really happy, for each—Cabinet, Palace, Wafd—from its own particular point of view is wondering what the new nomination portends. It is true that Mr. Chamberlain has declared that there will be no change in policy. A good deal always depends, however, on interpretation and application, and the general impression seems to be that the new High Commissioner, whose experience in Oriental politics is recognised and the record of whose work while in the Bombay Presidency has been duly noted, will be inclined to be considerably firmer and to take a more directly personal part than his predecessor was able to do in the negotiation of the various questions which have to be treated between the Egyptian Government and the Residency.

The development which the situation has latterly undergone has tended to induce the bulk of Egyptians to look towards the Residency for the final word far more than has been the case since 1919, and while they may outwardly disclaim any such feeling, it is certain that at heart everyone would welcome a return to something more approaching the old relations where the British were the accepted arbiters even in purely private questions between individuals.

Lord Allenby is expected to leave here between June 10 and 15, and various receptions and banquets are being organised in his honour by the different communities in Cairo and Alexandria, who are determined to give him a fitting farewell and dissociate themselves from the very shabby manner in which they consider he has been treated. Upon the arrival of Sir George Lloyd nothing is known.

The Inter-regnum.

There is a widespread hope that there will not be an extended inter-regnum. A long period between the departure of Lord Allenby and the arrival of the new High Commissioner would most certainly be taken advantage of by the Wafd and by the element which is already the cause of much latent discontent in the country. Anything that encourages either of these factions in the course which they are following must be detrimental to the continuation of good Government and the maintenance of confidence. There is indeed a distinct feeling that a disservice will be done both to the cause of good government and to the successful completion of the criminal inquiry now in course of development if the country is left in the state of indecision that will be created by a delay in the assumption of his duties by the new High Commissioner.

Arrests of Criminals.

The further important arrests made this week have given much satisfaction, particularly among thinking Egyptians. The latter realise how much these outrages have reflected on the national reputation. They are con-

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vinced that all were carried out under some exterior influence, coming from political circles which had an interest either in the removal of the victims or the upsetting of the political situation by the commission of assassinations at the particular juncture at which these acts or attempts were made. Their one desire is to see the moral responsibility brought directly home to those whom they regard very rightly as the true criminals. For some little time the names of various fairly prominent Egyptians have been mentioned as either directly or indirectly connected with the attempts or as having had close relations with some of the men now under custody, and the arrests now made are regarded as an indication that the authorities are bent on bringing that responsibility home, and as an earnest that considerations, neither of age nor position nor politics, will be allowed to interfere with the successful completion of the investigation on which they are now engaged.

The Census Director.

Mr. J. I. Craig, formerly Controller General of State Statistics, and, in the early days following its inception, Controller of the Supplies Department, has been appointed on a three-year contract to carry out the decennial census which is to be taken in 1927. Mr. Craig was resonsible for the census of 1917, which, in spite of the abnormal conditions set up by the War, was carried out most successfully, and the Egyptian Government have been very wise and, indeed, very fortunate, in securing his services for the direction of an operation the efficient and careful execution of which is of vital importance to a country like Egypt.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, May 18.

The New Agricultural Bank.

Considerable disappointment is felt with regard to the much talked of Agricultural Bank. It can only, it is said, be euphemistically so called! It is nothing better than a private speculative enterprise, not adapted to the needs of Cyprus. It will do no more for agriculturists than the "Agricultural Bank" founded by Sir William Willcocks, and the Egyptian Land Allotment Company, which failed to meet island needs. It would be better that the local banks should put their heads together and co-operate for the establishment of a bank of the kind that is required, for which they have sufficient capital available, as the Government is evidently unable or unwilling to provide what is needed to meet the particular circumstances. People must no longer look to the Government, but to themselves.

The Ottoman Debt.

One of the loudest complaints relates to what was generally called the Turkish Tribute (of over £92,000 per annum), but which is now styled the Cyprus share of the Ottoman Debt. This burden at any rate, it is urged, should have been removed when Cyprus became a British possession. All the more so now that it is a "Colony." Protest will continue to be made, as hitherto. It is an incubus which hinders all progress, and a burden which, it has always been contended, should in fairness be borne by the Imperial Government. There is indeed much to be said for this contention. But it must be remembered that for some time past £50,000 a year has been contributed by the British Government.

Cyprus Communists.

A few months ago a new element made its appearance at Limassol in the shape of a body of Communists, led by some outsider from Athens. They carry on an active propaganda, and have signed manifestoes. They started a paper called *The New Man*, the leading spirits being a barber and a carpenter. Hitherto they have not been taken seriously by the educated classes, ridicule only being poured upon them. But they appear to have led astray a considerable number of the ignorant and idlers, and are working for class hatred. A correspondent of the *Phóne tes Kyprou*, of Nicosia, considers that the movement calls for Government intervention. Why, it is asked, does the Government, which takes such pains to deal with infectious diseases of man and beast, not take steps to stamp out a poisonous malady which is already doing much mischief in the community?

The English Pilgrims.

The Bishop of Birmingham, Canon Douglas, and over 50 clergy, and 150 of the laity, during a short sojourn in the island have visited Nicosia, where a great and cordial reception was accorded to them by His Eminence the Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, supported by the Abbot of Kykkou, and other high dignitaries of the Autocephalous Church of Cyprus. After visiting the Cathedral Church, they were conducted to the great hall of the Archbishop's Palace. The Bishop of Birmingham was invited to sit in a chair which is said to have belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte, and which was bought by a Greek in Paris, and presented to the Archbishop. The Bishop, however, begged the Archbishop to occupy it, and to allow him to sit on his right hand. Interesting addresses were exchanged, and tea was taken in another room, when also the celebrated "Commanderia" wine of Cyprus was served, and toasts were given by both hosts and guests. The whole meeting was marked by the greatest enthusiasm, and by hearty demonstrations of welcome, and sincere cordiality on both sides. Wonderful interest was taken by the general public in Nicosia, where the visit has given the greatest satisfaction in the Greek community.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on June 17, at 8.30 p.m., at 41, Wilton Crescent, S.W.1., by kind permission of Mrs. Eric Romilly. The subject of discussion is "The Present Position in Palestine," and the principal speakers will be Captain E. N. Bennett (who has recently returned from Palestine), and Mr. Ernest Richmond. The Viscountess Combermere will be the hostess of the evening, and Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside.

THE BURTON MEMORIAL LECTURE.

Under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Sir Richard Burton Memorial Lecture will be given on June 16, 4.30 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, by Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby. The lecture, which is to be illustrated with lantern slides, is entitled "The Recent History of the Hejaz."

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In a letter from Iraq in our issue of May 21, our Baghdad Correspondent referred to the overturning of a car of the Nairn Transport Company in the Mail service between Beyrout and Baghdad. A telegram from the company states that the report of the overturning of one of their cars is untrue. We gladly publish this correction, regretting that our Baghdad Correspondent should have been misinformed on the subject.

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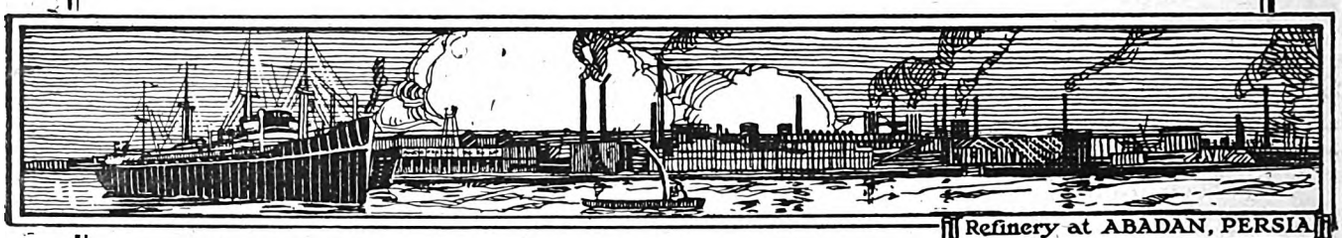

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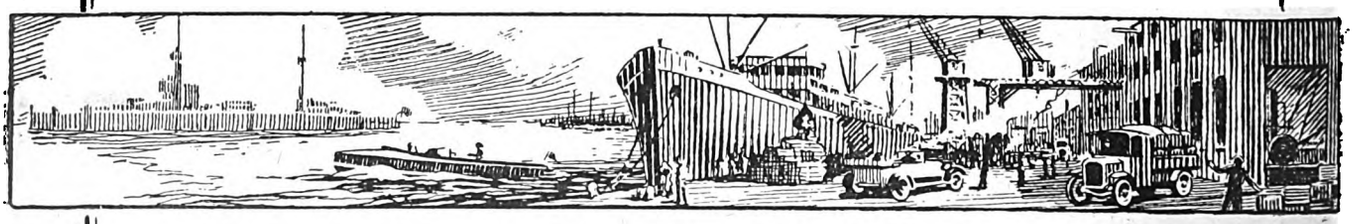

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CURRENT TOPICS.

The Industrial Progress of Mysore.

On May 22, Sir Alfred Chatterton read a paper on "The Industrial Progress of the Mysore State," before the Royal Society of Arts (Indian Section). The lecturer referred to the fact that, on the whole, the Indian States had progressed at a slower rate than British India: and that, though covering two-fifths of the surface of India, they only support one-fifth of its population. As regards the industrial conditions prevailing in India, he said that the great mass of the people had only been indirectly affected by the industrial movements occurring in their midst, but the enormous expansion of the external trade had brought the products of the world into every village and had excited new aspirations which inadequate means render it impossible to gratify. The discovery of gold at Kolar laid the foundation of the industrial prosperity of Mysore State. Up to the end of 1923, the Kolar Gold Fields had produced over 15½ million ounces of gold. The mines are among the deepest in the world, having reached, in their bottom workings, a depth of well over six thousand feet; but their wealth is by no means exhausted. The royalties so far received by the State amount to over three million pounds, but the direct contribution is by no means the only advantage the State has received from the mines. Where there was formerly a barren waste, there is now a flourishing settlement with a population of about ninety thousand: and it was the demand for power at the mines that rendered it possible to start the hydro-electric generating station on the Cauvery, the subsequent development of which has done so much to increase the wealth of Mysore. The works were opened in 1902 and, since then, on a capital expenditure of 175 lakhs, the net income has been over 300 lakhs. The sugar industry is progressing and, with the introduction of power-driven mills, continues to increase. The imports of sugar into India are very large, but it is noteworthy that, even now, India grows enough cane to supply her own needs, were it not that at least one-fourth of the supply is wasted through imperfect extraction. The distillation of sandal-wood oil, which is a State monopoly, has been very successful. Originally, the practice was to sell the wood; but, of late years, the State has extracted and sold the oil itself. Up to June 1924, the State factories had sold 850,000 pounds of oil for about one and a half million pounds sterling, at a net profit of about £200,000. The sandalwood of the Madras and Coorg Forest Departments is still sold and it is estimated that during the same period, the receipts are less by over £150,000 than if the oil had been sold after distillation. Mysore also produces about £700,000 worth of silk every year. An irrigation dam is being constructed on the Cauvery, which is expected to irrigate about 125,000 acres, most of which will be put under rice unless special efforts are made to assist the cultivators to grow sugar cane. The area mentioned should easily produce a million tons of cane yearly, connoting an annual yield of at least 100,000 tons of sugar. As India imports about four times this quantity there is an assured home market which, at the present time, is protected by a tariff of 25 per cent. Mysore also offers a great opportunity for the cultivation of sisal hemp, which can be grown on land almost useless for ordinary crops. If 100,000 acres of sisal hemp were established, the crop would be worth, on the spot, over £900,000 and, as the land occupied would be on or beyond the margin of ordinary cultivation, it would prove an extraordinarily valuable insurance against famine. Concentration of cultivation is essential if such crops as sugar cane and sisal hemp are to be subsequently treated by efficient modern machinery. The peasant will not grow the crops until he is certain that he can dispose of them: the capitalist will not put down the machinery until the crops are visible: and so nothing can be done unless Government can take the initiative and, in the general interest of the community, guarantee the peasant against loss at the outset.

The Times Empire Day Supplement.

The Empire Day issue of *The Times* included two articles on India, one of which, "The New India," from the pen of Sir George Lloyd, gave the views of the distinguished writer on a number of important topics. It emphasised the necessity for educating the electorate, without an advance in whose political comprehension any increase in the powers of Indian Ministers would be an advance in self-government by autocracy and not by democracy: and suggested, as a matter demanding attention, inquiry as to the advisability of some modification of the methods by which the electorate express their will. Sir George Lloyd believes that the source of real grievance in India to-day is very largely economic, and that the middle classes have suffered severely from trade depression, an unfortunate currency policy and unrestricted competition especially from Japan and China; while "the influence that commercial discontent is capable of exerting on the Press and on public opinion is often much underestimated." He urges a scientific and calculated policy for the stimulation of industrial growth in India, and is of opinion that this should include abolition of the cotton excise and preference to Empire goods. On such a foundation fiscal liberty to India, commensurate with what has been given politically, would go far to rebuild the prosperity of the Indian market and to restore genuine confidence and goodwill. Good trade and good relations will not be improved by "haphazard concessions to this or that industry, based upon the difficulties of a moment or yielded in response to clamour." British business interests on the one hand, and serious Indian opinion on the other, will not deny that it is the duty of Government to shape their economic policy primarily in the interests of the people of India, or, subject to this consideration, that the British have a legitimate claim to priority over foreign competitors in Indian markets: and economic and tariff revisions, framed with full regard to both these interests, "would probably succeed in securing the whole-hearted support of Indian business men and politicians." Sir George Lloyd discerns signs that Indian co-operation is at hand: and says that, in order that British co-operation may be fully given in return, recruitment for the Civil services in India must be given a fresh impetus—"No finer task awaits an Englishman in any other part of the Empire than that of helping India to her destiny."

The other article, a survey of "The Year in India" speaks of "the seemingly unending process of righting certain grievances which India has too long had to endure" and says that one of these grievances disappeared when India, in the exercise of her newly found fiscal freedom, gave protection to the iron and steel industry and thus cleared the way for a fresh effort to be rid of the cotton Excise duty. It is permissible to think that Sir George Lloyd's view, which agrees regarding the cotton excise but—by implication—disagrees with the imposition of the protective tariff on steel and iron, more accurately represents the facts: and it is permissible to disagree altogether with the writer's remarks about another of India's grievances—the position of Indians abroad, about which, he thinks, "there may be a crisis any day, a furious agitation aroused by what is universally looked upon here as the bad treatment of Indians in Natal or Kenya or elsewhere." Any such agitation would be almost wholly fictitious; for, whatever the justice of the case, it is an undoubted fact that the Indian politician does not really care in the least about the position of Indians abroad, except in so far as it can be made use of for a political manoeuvre. Bluntly stated, his view is much the same as that of the Germans in the War, with regard to German prisoners in Allied hands: they had lost all positive value as "cannon-fodder" and the only value that they retained was that of a possible basis of propaganda about "prison atrocities." A few years ago, in response to political clamour about the treatment of Indians in Fiji, a shipload of emigrants returned to India; where they discovered that their villages would not receive them back, on the ground that they had outcasted themselves by going abroad: and they were reduced to petitioning their "benefactors" to permit them to return

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to Fiji. No Indian politician has the smallest desire to emigrate to Natal or Kenya or any other colony; though it is true that he feels that any rule that forbids him to do so is offensive; much as a lawn tennis player (vide Rudyard Kipling's "Maltese Cat") likes to have plenty of room round the court even though he does not want to run outside it—he likes to know that he could do so if he wanted to. It is easy for the theorists of countries that are not affected to express disapproval of the actions of those that are; but the practical difficulties that oppose any attempt by the Government of India to right this particular grievance are enormous: and it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that its existence is not in the least likely to lead to a "crisis" or to any genuinely "furious agitation."

Dinners.

The annual Calcutta dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil on May 26. The Chairman, Mr. R. Langford James, proposed the toast of the evening, "The City of Calcutta and our Guests," which was replied to by Sir Henry Wheeler, Governor of Behar and Orissa. The company, which numbered over 300, included Lords Winterton and Ronaldshay.

The annual Burma dinner took place on May 28 at the Connaught Rooms, with Sir Alexander Anderson in the chair. Sir Harcourt Butler, Governor of Burma, responded to the toast "Prosperity to Burma."

Address.

Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, Member of the Indian Council of State and a well-known owner of mill and colliery interests in India, is to address a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on June 10, on "Political and Commercial Relations between England and India,"

The Commander-in-Chief.

It is announced that Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood will return to India with Lord Reading, who is expected to leave England about July 23.

The Monsoon.

Bombay experienced heavy rain on May 28, and monsoon conditions appear to have been established there.

Trade Notes.

The Imperial Bank of India lowered its rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent. on May 21. India's foreign trade for the month of April shows merchandise imports of 1,847 lakhs, and exports (including re-exports) of 3,305 lakhs. The net imports of gold into India were valued at 132 lakhs and of silver at 263 lakhs. On May 15 the proportion of metallic reserves to India's note issue was 53.4 per cent.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Bengal Conference.

Mr. C. R. Das, in his Presidential address at the Bengal Provincial Conference, held on May 2, defined his attitude towards revolutionaries. He said that violence "is hardly in keeping with Indians' life and culture and is not part of our being as it is of Europe." He believed that India's freedom would never be won by revolutionary violence, and that armed revolution could not contend successfully against "the highly organised governmental violence of the present day." The method of violence was impracticable, for the people would not side with the revolutionists, and was "waste of time and energy," because unsuited to India's temperament: he appealed to the young men of Bengal who, in their hearts, favoured violence, to desist from such thoughts, though "far be it from me to say one word against the honesty of purpose or the ardour of patriotism which these young men are capable of showing": and he called upon the Conference to "declare clearly and unequivocably that, in its opinion, freedom cannot be achieved by such methods." He then proceeded to state the terms on which "we on our part should be in a position to give some sort of undertaking that we shall not by word, deed, or gesture, encourage the revolutionary propaganda and that we shall make every effort to put an end to such a movement"; though he added that no such undertaking was needed, since "the Conference had never identified itself with the revolutionary propaganda." His terms were, that Government should divest themselves of their "wide discretionary powers of constraint," proclaim a general amnesty of all political prisoners, guarantee "the fullest recognition of our right to the establishment of Swaraj within the commonwealth in the near future," and in the meantime lay its foundation at once—such foundation to be a matter of negotiation and settlement, not only between the Government and the people as a whole, but also between the different communities, including the European and Anglo-Indian communities. If, however, India's offer of a settlement met with no response, they must continue to make it impossible for Government to carry on the administration except by the exercise of its exceptional powers, with a view to creation of an atmosphere for national civil disobedience, "which must be the last weapon in the hand of the people striving for freedom."

The resolutions passed by the Conference included one voicing Mr. Das' "terms": another demanding "the right of the Indian nation" to "an opportunity of self-realisation, self-development, self-fulfilment, and liberty to work for the consolidation of the divers elements which go to make up the Indian nation, unimpeded and unobstructed by any outside domination": and a third saying that, if the British Empire recognises such rights, is prepared to make them effective, and does not obstruct such a realisation of Swaraj, the Conference "calls upon the Indian nation to realise its Swaraj within the British Commonwealth." The Conference also resolved that it had been "clearly established" that it was "the inauguration and lawless activity of the repressive policy of Government" that had fostered the revolutionary spirit, and that that policy should be forthwith abandoned.

"Swaraj."

The *Statesman* (Calcutta), commenting on Mr. Das' speech, points out that, while he holds out an olive branch with one hand, he keeps a bludgeon in the other: for "civil disobedience is a polite term, but let there be no mistake as to what the phrase means. What is proposed is a refusal to pay taxes, and therefore a revolt against the Government." The *Statesman* expresses sympathy with remarks made by Mr. Das on the difference between Indian and English conceptions of government. The Reforms scheme seeks to impose Western methods of democracy on Eastern peoples; and the Nationalist, though not so unreasonable as to deny that it bestows genuine powers and responsibilities on the Indian Ministers, does not want those powers in the form in which they have been granted, and regards their extension with disfavour. Four years ago, Mr. Das signified his approval of a scheme for the organisation of India on the lines of the ancient village communities. The village should be the unit: a number of villages should be grouped together in a local administration: several such administrations would combine to form a provincial government: and the provincial governments would be co-ordinated in one central authority for the whole country. If Mr. Das and his followers really believe that such a scheme would prove workable, why do they not come forward with well-considered proposals for giving it a trial in selected parts of the country? It is the essence of the scheme that each part of the organisation should be autonomous and self-supporting, and therefore, if it can work at all, it will work more easily the smaller the area to which it is applied. The British Parliament and its servants in India are not so enamoured of their first efforts towards Indian autonomy as not to welcome an alternative method that promises to yield better results: and the *Statesman* expresses the belief that, if Mr. Das and his friends were to choose the districts that they consider most suitable, draw up their schemes in detail, and then apply to Government for permission to demonstrate the practicability of their proposals, they would not be likely to meet with a refusal: and the experiment, if successful, would provide an irresistible argument in favour of providing India with Swaraj in a congenial and workable form.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

June 4, 1925 (New Style).
May 22, 1925 (Old Style).
Julkaada 12, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 12, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Imre Schwaiger, of Delhi, has arrived at 39, Brook Street.

Shevky Pasha has been appointed First Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in London.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Bt., returned last Friday to 50 Berkeley Square, from India.

Princess Marie of Greece (Mme. Ionnides) and Admiral Ioannides left London on May 31 for Paris.

The Queen of Roumania will, according to present arrangements, pay a visit to London in July.

The Master of Elibank and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray have left 187, St. James's Court, for Scotland.

Dr. Naji el Assil has resigned his appointment as diplomatic representative to the King of the Hejaz in London.

M. Metaxas, formerly Greek Minister, has arrived in London from the Continent and is staying at 52, Queen's Gate Gardens.

M. Marcu Beza, the Roumanian Consul-General, returned to London last Friday from Bucharest, after six weeks' absence.

Captain Hamdi Bey has arrived in London on a special Naval Mission from Angora on behalf of the Turkish Government.

Sir Alban and Lady Young, who recently arrived in London from Belgrade, are staying at 24, Victoria Square, S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Crawley, Miss Crawley, and Mr. Arthur Crawley, who is on leave from India, have arrived at 100, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

General Sir John Maxwell will preside at the second annual dinner in London of past and present members of the Cairo Turf Club, to be held at Oddenino's on June 25.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen arrived last week at Court in Holmes, Forest Row, Sussex, where they will spend the summer.

General Sir George Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., will preside at the fourth annual dinner of the Salonika Army and Black Sea Forces, to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, June 19.

Mr. Maurice Watts, who has been practising at the Bar in London and on the Midland Circuit since 1921, left London last week for Colombo, on his way to Travancore to take up his appointment as Dewan of the State.

The King has approved the extension of the term of office of Sir Bayya Narasimheswara Sarma, K.C.S.I., as a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India from July 16 to October 31, 1925.

The will of Major-General Charles Alexander Cuningham, Indian Army (retired), of Lypiatt Terrace, Cheltenham, Glas. (estate in Great Britain) (net personalty £885), has been proved at £1,449.

The annual meeting of the Indian Church Aid Association will be held at the Church House, Westminster, on June 10, at 3 p.m. Colnel Sir Donald Robertson will preside, and the speakers will include the Bishop of Calcutta and the Bishop of Assam.

The British-Indian Union and Northbrook Society will give a reception at 35, Lowndes Square (by permission of Lady Mond), on June 11, from 4 to 6, to members of the society, to meet the Earl and Countess of Reading.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, who has been spending some weeks in Palestine and Syria, has arrived in Turkey. After a visit to Angora he proposes to spend a short time in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, returning to London in the third week of June.

Dr. V. Mastny, who has been Czecho-Slovak Minister to the Court of St. James since 1920, left London last Thursday for Rome, where he will take up the position of Minister to Italy. He was accompanied by Madame Mastny.

The Bishop of Calcutta arrived in England last Monday. His visit is mainly connected with matters relating to the Indian Church Measure. His headquarters in this country will be the Indian Church Aid Association, Church House, Westminster.

Sir Alfred and Lady Mond entertained a house-party for Whitsun at Melchet Court, Romsey, which included among others the Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading, Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A., Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, and Miss Lloyd George.

The Library Committee of Cambridge University have appointed Mr. B. F. C. Atkinson, M.A. (Magdalene) to fill the post of third under-librarian, with effect from October 1, and Mr. J. Leveen, B.A. (London), assistant in the Department of Oriental Books and Manuscripts in the British Museum, to be Curator in Oriental Literature.

The Crown Princess of Roumania, accompanied by her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, will arrive in London on June 8, from Bucharest. They will stay with the Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco for the remainder of the season. Princess Ileana, the youngest daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, arrived in London last Friday evening, and proceeded to the Roumanian Legation.

By an omission which we regret, the name of "Vandyke," the photographer, was omitted from the photograph of Sir George Lloyd that we published in our last week's issue.

Where to stay in the East.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925.

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

A few weeks ago the internal situation in Turkey attracted attention as a result of the severe sentence passed on the Editor of the *Tanin*, who appeared to be charged with no more serious offence than that of criticising some of the acts of the Government. The subsequent activities of the Tribunals of Independence suggest that the work of enforcing obedience throughout the country to the views of Angora is being carried through effectually, and with the clearing up of the situation at home it is likely that the Government will have more time to devote to the consideration of foreign affairs. An important indication of the trend of Turkish policy has been given by the choice of a German firm for the supply of a large floating-dock in which the Goeben can be repaired and by the ordering of two submarines from Holland. The announcement marks the end of, or at least a definite stage in, a long-drawn controversy that has been taking place in Angora. It is known that the Turkish naval authorities have been anxious to identify their small fleet, both now and for the future, with the British Navy, on the ground that only in this way could they hope to keep it up to date and up to the highest standard of efficiency. The politicians, however, have been opposed to them, partly because they do not share the navy's professional enthusiasm for Great Britain, and partly because the representatives of other foreign countries have been more insistent than the British representatives or use more effective methods of persuasion. With the wisdom of the attempt to patch up the Goeben—it is difficult to think of the ex-German battle-cruiser as the Yavaz Sultan Selim—we are not here concerned; in many quarters it is believed that the vessel will hardly survive a voyage from the Gulf of Ismidt to the Bosphorus, if the intention is to select the latter for the new dockyard. There can, however, be no doubt that the Turks are very much in earnest over their naval policy. They are, we believe, thinking at the present moment less of Greece than of Russia. The prospect of the return to Soviet Russia of the vessels of the former Black Sea Fleet alarmed the Turkish naval authorities, and they appear to have convinced the politicians of the necessity of putting the fleet in order without further delay. As far as can be gathered from the words of Ihsan Bey, Minister of Marine, a compromise has been reached between the wishes of the naval authorities who would prefer to see the Turkish fleet brought into touch with the British Navy and the politicians who would have given it a purely German character. Technical experts are to be procured from abroad; but they are to be individually servants of the Turkish Government, in no way responsible officially their own countries, and Turkey will thus feel that her independence is safeguarded, even though it be at the price of naval homogeneity.

There is reason to suppose that the Turkish naval authorities realise that the steps now being taken are at best a temporary palliative. The essentials of the situation remain what they were at any time before the Great War; for Turkey still holds the gateway of Russia's approach to the Mediterranean Sea, and sooner or later the challenge to her possession of it must be expected. Alliance with Germany formerly provided the means of security that commended themselves most to the Turkish authorities of the day. For the time being Germany is a broken reed, although there is doubtless as much speculation in Angora as elsewhere in regard to what the future has in store in this connexion. In the heyday of Angora's xenophobia, immediately after the defeat of the Greek army, the need for security was flouted; but opinion on the subject is slowly changing. An easy and obvious policy is to keep the telegraph line to Germany open for future use, if necessary; and to this end minor concessions have been given to Germans, followed up now with the order for a floating-dock. If, however, immediate security is required, it will have to be sought elsewhere, and this would seem to be the problem which is beginning to exercise the minds of Turkey's rulers.

choice is restricted to Great Britain and France, inasmuch as the United States of America still show little inclination to become entangled in European complications. Before making up their mind as to the relative merits of the two Powers from the Turkish point of view, they will probably pass through a long period of indecision, during which France may feel obliged to leave no stone unturned in order to secure a verdict in her own favour. Great Britain, on the other hand, is hardly likely to abandon her attitude of disinterested friendliness until Turkey makes a more sincere response to the good will with w[illegible] the British Government has clearly shown that it is actuated towards the Turkish Republic.

In deciding upon her foreign policy, one of the questions which the new Turkey will have to settle is the *quid pro quo* that she can offer for the sense of security that she may be regarded as desiring. Her value to German designs in the East was obvious, and she has, perhaps, been able already, as a result of her experience during the last few years, to form an opinion of the price she might have to pay for French support. The currency in which such obligations are usually discharged is either military power or economic advantages. In the case of France the occasion for payment in the former currency is unlikely to arise; in regard to economic concessions it will be for Turkey to decide how far these can be considered negotiable without encroachment, actual or potential, upon her sovereign rights. Anglo-Turkish relations in the past have been helped by the fact that over a long period British policy had to take into account Russian designs in the Middle East. In regard to the future, if this latent clash of interests between Great Britain and Russia is to continue, Turkey may come to the conclusion that she can secure alignment with British policy by means of a *quid pro quo* which has no misgivings for her. If, on the other hand, lasting agreement were reached between Russia and Great Britain in regard to all Asian questions, it would be a comparatively simple matter for British diplomacy to provide in such an agreement an adequate guarantee for the integrity of Turkey. For such a guarantee there would be no price to be paid beyond the ordinary friendliness of relations that Great Britain seeks to maintain with all countries. At present this friendliness would seem to be wanting on the part of Turkey, who for reasons only known to herself imagines that she has more to gain by an antagonistic attitude towards any overtures for better relations. It is unfortunate that the Mosul question still occupies the horizon. On a point, however, which the Turkish Government has been unable to carry by argument, it cannot hope to win by bluff alone, and any serious decision regarding foreign policy should endeavour to look beyond the temporary considerations of the moment.

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ORIENTAL TYPES.*

The Orphan.

BY F. W. CHARDIN.

A being very much in evidence in the bazaars, streets, and by-lanes of an Oriental town is the orphan. In most of those primitive lands, the *Aitamkhanah* or orphanage, even although they possess a name for it, is a thing in fact unknown by the people. Muslim beneficence, although exercised often in many laudable ways, has failed to produce a St. Vincent de Paul or a Dr. Barnardo, and so, perhaps, the hard natural law of the survival of the fittest is exemplified at its most rigorous form in the earliest stages of life.

Infantile mortality in Baghdad is estimated by some to reach the collossal proportion of seventy-five per cent. of the birth rate, and so, even if the expectation of life is so short when parents are living, what must be the chance of a child left to fend for itself at a tender age in a society where ignorance is so prevalent and where philanthropic organisation of that kind is unknown?

Let it be said at once that, individually, the Oriental has as kind a heart and as ready a fund of sympathy as the Westerner. Particularly is that so of the poor, and many a hapless infant is adopted by the wife of a poor labouring man who has little enough to live on himself. The Quran especially legislates for the widow and the fatherless, and prescribes severe retribution in the world to come for those who oppress these unfortunates.

Yet those more blessed with this world's goods, often take a very great advantage of the situation of the orphan child in order to obtain a cheap domestic; more especially is this so in the case of the female child, for comparatively few of these are seen in the streets. Recently, in the course of the writer's experience, when the house of a well-to-do citizen was broken into and robbed, the plunderer, being surprised by the household domestic, a little girl of eight years of age, stabbed her to death and escaped. This unfortunate little orphan had been left in charge of the household while the family was away.

Often, of course, these children are well treated and honourably married in due course; others remain as faithful old domestics to the end of a long, useful and laborious life, but it is often true that many of these, having nothing but their body to sell to procure themselves bread, are forced into an immoral life, either as private concubines or as public prostitutes, and end up as whining old beggar women in the streets or as performers of the most menial public tasks.

Boys also are found as unpaid servants in private houses, and the writer well recalls the fine featured, freckled child of about eleven years of age, body servant to a rich, tremendously fat merchant, and whose stentorian call of *Jamil ta'al* or "Jamil come here," resounded every few moments to keep the patient-faced lad running about hither and thither on some petty errand, to fill his master's water-pipe, to light it, to change the water, to open the window or shut the door, to all of which simple duties his lord refused to move his enormous bulk or to raise a hand. If a visitor arrived, he had to escort in mine host's six year old imp of a son Hussein, to be introduced, one of Jamil's multifarious duties being to act as Hussein's nursemaid.

It is not, however, of these domestic orphans that one desires to speak. Their lot, though practically slavery, has at least some security as to food and shelter. It is the little *walad* who accosts you in the street, sometimes begging, although this begging is not the public curse that it becomes in tourist-haunted lands like Egypt, where the cry of "Baksheesh" almost drives the visitor demented. Sometimes, sad to say, they act as touts for the proprietors and denizens of houses of ill fame. The writer has even seen such small boys sometimes, with half a dozen English biscuits or two or three oranges spread out on a cardboard box-lid, sitting by the roadside, attempting to drive a petty trade. More often, with the stock in trade of a rough worsted *aba*, or cloak, to act as a carry-all, they follow the profession of *hammal* to persons on a shopping expedition in the bazaar.

It is this little porter who most comes within the purview of the European resident or visitor, a bare legged, ragged little urchin, as agile as a monkey and as lively as a cricket. The struggle for existence seems to have endowed them with a wit so sharp and an intelligence so acute, that many of them seem able to carry on a conversation in English with a vocabulary almost as extensive as that of an urchin in the streets of London, although they, unlike him, have never been to school; and that within a few months of the first entry of the British into their native town. Clamorous and importunate, they beset you as you enter the alleys of the market crying, "Porter, Sahib," "Porter, Sister" (all European ladies were known in the early days of the British occupation as "Sister," owing to the gracious members of the military nursing services being almost the only representatives of their sex and race in those regions, and a regular Arabic feminine plural form *Sistat* came into common use to denote European ladies). They buzz around and hustle you until you feel greatly embarrassed with their attentions. The only course then to pursue is to select the boy or boys you wish to carry your parcels, and having separated the elect from the rejected, threaten the latter with your stick until they depart, the favoured ones grinning delightedly and calling back jeering and insulting remarks at their comrades. Even then, some of these will follow you on your perambulations at a discreet distance, on the offchance that you may purchase more than your present transport arrangements can cope with, and that further assistance may be required. And so you move off, your mentor or mentors making all sorts of remarks and offering all sorts of advice, suggesting that they lead you to some so-called "English shop" where anything from a thermos flash to a degenerate box of chocolates may be purchased at a great price, and where your youthful guide, philosopher and friend probably receives a small commission on your purchases. If, however, you stop before some native shop and cannot speak Arabic, your young porter will begin officiously to act as interpreter, adviser and general bargainer, often doing it efficiently and well; and even if you do speak Arabic and happen to know perfectly well what you want, he will butt in with annoying interpretations and explanations which will drive you to fury, unless you silence him sharply and at once.

And so, when you have finished your shopping and returned home with your spoils, and you ask your young assistant his charge, he will reply either with an outrageous demand or will more probably reply *Kaifak Sahib*, "Leave it to you, Sir," a reply which denotes a deep knowledge of human nature, particularly English human nature. For the average Englishman would hate to have that little whippersnapper consider him mean, and so, weakly, overpays him. An overcharge will often be refused with rough words, but *Kaifak* generally yields a good return for the speculation in psychology.

These little orphan boys live goodness knows where, in holes and corners in the bazaar or in caves and cellars of tumbledown ruined houses, sharing accommodation

* See THE NEAR EAST of April 30.

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with the *pi* dogs, the scavengers of the streets and refuse heaps. In the late spring, summer and early autumn, their lot in this respect may be considered more bearable, but in winter particularly, it must be terrible. A friend of the writer relates that once, when staying in Biskra, he was talking, one cold winter night, to some of these urchins crowded together under a ledge in front of a shop, the kindly shopkeeper making it a practice to leave this ledge in position in order to provide some shelter for these unfortunate children. One of their number, with a small coin which he had received, had bought, instead of some food for himself, a small quantity of charcoal for the common use, and in the bitter cold, each little fellow proceeded to hold the glowing brazier underneath his single shirt, so that the pleasant warmth might rise up between his shivering body and his shirt, and not be wasted on the outside air.

The writer himself well remembers a particular favourite of his, a bright, jolly little fellow whose face showed intelligence and character, yet whose pink cheeks and blue eyes might have belonged to a cherub. It is difficult to imagine him of Arab race, yet there he was, an urchin in an Eastern bazaar.

One wonders also what he will become, whether that fascinating intelligence of the Oriental child will degenerate into the vicious cunning stupidity, which is so often a characteristic of the low-class Eastern townee. One sincerely hopes not, but the odds of his environment are heavily weighted against him, and one feels that the injunction of the Quran *fa-amma al yatima fa-la taqhar* "Therefore, as to the orphan, do not oppress him," might have a wider appreciation among the Believers, many of whom seem to forget that their Prophet is reported to have said, holding up two of his fingers close to one another, "He who takes care of the orphan and I are like these two," and on another occasion, "When the orphan weeps, his tears fall into the hand of the Beneficient God."

ALGERIAN PICTURES.

It was rather as a recreation, one gathers, than as an irresistible impulse, that Miss Edith Mary Barlow, who has been exhibiting at Walker's Galleries, Bond Street, W., made her pictures of Algeria and of other places. These sketches of places like Algiers, Touggourt, Biskra, and so on, are rather in the nature of pleasant reminiscences than of accurate representations or profound comments, and the result of this seeming superficiality is that most of the works, whether in oil or in water-colour, suffer from a certain sameness. The magic quality of North Africa is but distantly suggested, although in such a work as "Le Grand Marché, Touggourt," Miss Barlow manifests a wider receptivity than usual.

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AMERICA AND MONTENEGRO.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I beg to submit to you the enclosed item of news, which I trust you may consider a matter of public interest and will publish.—I am, etc.,

ALEX DEVINE.

Late Hon. Minister Plenipotentiary for Montenegro.

Northwood Park, Winchester, May 28.

A bill has recently been introduced before Congress at Washington in reference to what is described as "the former independent Kingdom of Montenegro" authorising the receipt and disposal by the Secretary of State of certain decorations to American citizens. The facts are as follows, in the year 1919 the late King Nicolas of Montenegro signed a decree under which all Americans who received the Congressional Medal of Honour during the Great War, would be accorded the Montenegrin silver medal for valour, a considerable number received the silver medal but some did not; it now appears that at the moment when Montenegro was forcibly annexed by Serbia (in the absence of the Montenegrin King who was in exile in France), the Montenegrin decoration could not be given to those Americans still in the Service, and the purpose of the Bill before Congress is to permit such men to receive it. The Bill which was introduced by Mr. Boylan has been referred to the committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed, one clause of which adds "the Secretary of State is authorised to receive the gold medal of the former Kingdom of Montenegro and to deposit the same with the medals conferred upon the American "Unknown Soldier" by various foreign Governments.

CYPRUS A COLONY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir, Now that Cyprus has been formally incorporated in the British Empire it is to be hoped that a revision of the Statute Laws now in force will be made. At the present moment Turkish Law holds good except in cases where it has been superseded by English Law. Turkish Law suited the habits and customs of the people—say a hundred years ago. But it is out of date at the present time, causing inconvenience to many.—I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, May 16.

SKETCHES IN MOROCCO.

Quite the most interesting thing about the collection of water-colours now being shown at the Goupil Gallery, Regent Street, is the work done in Morocco by Mr. Romilly Fedden. So often when artists go to the East—and Mogreb el-Aksa of course is in the East—they overload their pictures with unreal colour. Not so Mr. Fedden. He consistently avoids all exaggeration, and is as like the coventional artist in Moslem lands as, for instance, the authors of "Goha the Fool" are to the "sheikhy" novelist.

Look at his grouping in "The Birthday of the Prophet," for example, and feel how, with his white figures swarming on the hill-side he conjures up the whole atmosphere of the "Mauled at Nebi." See the skill, again, with which he invests with age the walls of "The Casbah Gate, Tangier"; and, elsewhere, reflect on the gold and rose of Marrakesh, the white walls of Saleh, the interminable chatter of the Tangier *suq*. But, best of all, call up the immemorial past of the "Tour Hassan." It is impossible, before the representation of this Rabat building, with its rust-red tower, its mysterious grey columns and the blue and magical air enshrining it, not to perceive the majesty, the loneliness, and the dignity of Islam's farthest outpost. Very certainly Mr. Romilly Fedden, who, we believe, made most of the sketches four years ago, has got beneath the skin of Morocco, and exposes, to our delight, some of the secrets of that picturesque and historical land.

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Near East Bookshelf.

INDIAN UNREST; ITS CAUSE AND CURE.

"The Heart of Aryavarta." By the Earl of Ronaldshay (London: Constable and Co., 14s.).

This volume is the last of a trilogy which deals with the most absorbing episode in history—the creation of an Asiatic empire, Eastern by birth and tradition, but Western by training. Its author reminds us that British rule in India dates from the chaos into which she was thrown by the collapse of the Mughal régime. Provincial Governors threw off their allegiance to Delhi, and soldiers of fortune carved out kingdoms for themselves. India was the theatre of perennial warfare, and her people were victimised by predatory bands. Owing to lack of communications famine was endemic, while an eclipse fell upon the art and literature for which India was once renowned. The East India Company was compelled to take measures for protecting its monopoly of trade; and its officers copied their French rivals in the South by creating an army of native mercenaries with whose aid territories were annexed, despite the stringent inhibitions from London. For the first time in history the flag followed trade, and after seventy years of incessant struggle Great Britain was recognised as the paramount Power from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. The Company's Directors were more intent on earning dividends than in improving the conditions of their subjects; but in 1813 they were compelled by Act of Parliament to allot a proportion of their revenues to education. Meantime efforts to spread English learning made by Christian missionaries and secular enthusiasts had achieved remarkable success. A controversy set in between the champions of Eastern and Western education; and the scale was turned by Lord Macaulay's famous Minute of 1835. That philistine of genius poured scorn on Sanskrit, and declared that a single shelf in any good European library was worth the entire output of Asiatic authors! Thenceforward the educational policy of successive Governors-General had a strong Western bias, and finally a knowledge of English became the sole passport to public employ. In 1854 a despatch of the Secretary of State brought Departments of Public Instruction into being and the Calcutta University was founded three years later. It has always been staffed by graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, which, until recent years, ignored the claims of technical education, and held that an acquaintance with literature was the best preparation for the duties of Civil life. The movement thus started soon gained a momentum which none of its originators had foreseen. The Indian mind is predisposed to absorb literary teaching; University degrees came to possess definite economic value, and carried weight in the marriage-market. In this fashion did a purely examining body develop into the largest educational machine in the world; and its myriad alumni formed an *intelligentsia* which is entirely divorced from the mental outlook of nine-tenths of the population. The practical results of two Commissions which sat in judgment on education failed to stem the torrent of graduates which was yearly poured forth in far greater volume than the exigencies of civil life could absorb. Nations are more inclined to imitate the vices than the virtues of their neighbours. The new wine of western learning proved too strong for Indian brains; and an Anglomania set in which was disastrous to the morals of the young generation.

A reaction was produced by the teaching of Indians who realised that they were the heirs of an ancient civilisation; and they sowed the seeds of revolt in fruitful soil. Asiatics south of the Himalayas have a deep-seated capacity for religious devotion, with a high emotional temperament; and they are peculiarly susceptible to passionate oratory. The movement soon developed a left wing, which believed that the Indian "nation" was capable of steering its own destinies; and sought to sever all connections with the Power which had given India all the essentials of civilised government. Can it be doubted that perfected means of intercourse have brought Indian extremists within the orbit of a world-wide movement, which asserts nationality and craves for independence from a foreign yoke, however lightly it may lie? It is more than a coincidence that the President of the Gaelic League should declare in the last issue of its journal that:

> The objective of the Gaelic movement is essentially to drive Anglicisation out of Ireland, and to re-establish our own Gaelic civilisation and culture.

Sinn Fein in Ireland and Swadesh or non-co-operation, in India are identical in title and aims. The extremist wing in both countries is observed by perverted religion and perverted patriotism. In both is preached the sombre gospel of hatred; and the annals of both are stained by a campaign of murder, which in Bengal was checked by Lord Ronaldshay's administration.

Will the attempt made in 1919 to associate Indians with ourselves in the task of government be crowned with success? Lord Ronaldshay sounds a note of warning against undue optimism. "At the present time," he writes:—

> We are making herculean efforts to establish in India in the higher sphere of government a Constitution modelled as faithfully as possible upon our own. Is it certain that a constitution which has been evolved gradually with our own growth from childhood to nationhood is the one best suited to the genius and circumstances of the Indian peoples?

His scepticism is shared by Indians who can rise above the murky atmosphere of political strife; and it is a noteworthy fact that the Montagu-Chelmsford "leap in the dark" was made at an epoch when Parliamentarism was discredited in many Continental countries. All India's well-wishers agree that her future is bound up in a hearty co-operation between the best elements of both races. English has become the medium for the exchange of thought throughout the vast peninsula. The career of many an Indian scientist proves that the rigorous methods developed in Europe may be grafted on the genius of an Asiatic race. Given mutual goodwill a rational synthesis between East and West may yet be attained.

Lord Ronaldshay possesses unique qualifications for dealing with the tremendous problems which confront British administrators in India and at Home. He has governed Bengal with conspicuous success; he is an enthusiastic student of India's philosophy, and has deep sympathy with the aspirations of her peoples. His latest book should be in the hands of all who long to see India working out her own practical salvation as a loyal and prosperous component of the British Empire. F. H. S.

ISLAM AND CHRISTENDOM.

Is there any possibility that Islam may again overrun Christendom, and, as it did between the seventh and the

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seventeenth centuries, straddle the lands of Europe? It is a question that is often, in these days of the resuscitation of Turkey, pan-Islamism, the awakening of the East, and the rest of it, being asked, and asked, moreover, with a genuine anxiety. Whether it is prompted more by the sight of dissensions between European Powers or by the sight of real Oriental enthusiasm is a matter of opinion. But there can be no student of the Moslem East to whom the problem has not at some time presented itself.

Now this problem appears to have a peculiar fascination for Americans. Everyone is familiar, for example, with Mr. Lothrop Stoddard's researches into the subject. And how urgent the New World feels this question to be is shown by the reprinting, from the *Geographical Review*, of an article, entitled "The Mohammedan World," which was first published in January, 1924. The author of this article, Mr. Isaiah Bowman, deals with his subject in characteristic fashion, armed with maps, statistics, categories, and so on. He has, nevertheless, achieved an eminently readable piece of reasoning.

He begins by stating that Islam, unlike Christianity or Buddhism, is a religion of force and authority, a system of law, a political guide, a basis of government. During the thirteen centuries of its existence it has been able to exercise its influence as such. Not until the seventeenth century was it expelled from considerable sway in Europe, and it might appear, he argues, that the stirrings which are almost everywhere evident to-day in the Moslem world were the prelude to a renewed attack upon Christendom. He says: "Of course anything may happen to the western world, and any accident may betray it if it chooses to live in a disunited state. The twenty-six so-called Christian nations of Europe united against Islam is a pretty thought; but all of them will have to see Mohammedanism as an overwhelming menace before such a union takes place, for the mutal fears, jealousies, hatreds, and ambitions of the European States are objects of far livelier concern, either because the Moslem menace seems so far away or because it otherwise appears to lack reality. Should blindness to this or any other menace carry the civilisation of Europe to the brink of disaster, it would of course need but little force to push it over the precipice."

But Mr. Bowman does not believe in the reality of the Moslem menace. His reasons for this unbelief are, briefly, the rigorous conditions under which most Moslems live, the very special nature of the vast tract in which their religion predominates, and, above all, the fact that the Mohammedan realm is not to be considered as a vast reservoir of power from which may be drawn the means for carrying war into the European field. It is this last fact which makes all the difference between the mediaeval Islam and the modern. Border warfare could, of course, be carried on by Moslems against Europeans, but the issue in this case is not one between Continental victory and defeat.

What is necessary in the face of this talk of the resurgence of Islam, Mr. Bowman concludes, is the pursuance by European Powers of the policy that Britain has long followed in regard to Islam: that of marginal control. If Europe commands those coasts which are the limits of Mohammedan lands, disunity in Islam itself will do the rest. The unity of Islam is, he states, a fantastic notion, and "equally fantastic is the implication that any combination of units has the technical skill, the resources, the physical layout that furnishes any basis whatever for aggression on a great scale. European disunion alone furnishes an opportunity for striking effectively in critical marginal situations and at critical times."

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Ocean of Story." Being C. H. Tawney's Translation of Somadeva's Katha Sarit Sagara. Now Edited with Introduction, Fresh Explanatory Notes and Terminal Essay by N. M. Penzer, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.G.S. Vol. III. With a Foreword by Dr. M. Gaster, Ph.D. (London: Chas. J. Sawyer, Ltd.)

"The Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt." By Malcolm L. Darling, I.C.S. With a Foreword by Sir Edward Maclagan, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., late Governor of the Punjab. With Illustrations. (London: Oxford University Press. 14s. net.)

DR. IVAN ZOLGER.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

Dr. Ivan Zolger, who died on May 16, at a nursing home at Lassnitzhöhe, in Austria, was born in 1867. The clever son of an old Styrian Slovene peasant family, he was sent to school at Maribor, where he soon gave promise of an exceptional career. He studied law at the Universities of Gras and Paris. In 1900 he was appointed to lecture on International Law at the University of Vienna. When, in 1917, the Austrian Government made a last desperate effort to keep the Empire together by radically modifying its policy towards the Slavs, Ivan Zolger was made Minister without portfolio, the first and last Slovene who ever attained the distinction of being a member of an Austrian Cabinet. In this capacity it fell to him to elaborate that scheme of Constitutional Reform whereby the Hapsburgs hoped even at that late hour to conciliate their Slav subjects. When the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed in 1918, Dr. Zolger placed his services at the disposal of the National Government. He was made President of the Administrative Committee, was Yugoslav delegate to the Paris Peace Conference, where he was one of the three who actually signed the treaties, Yugoslav delegate to the Congress of the League of Nations, and member of the Permanent Board of Arbitration at The Hague. When the University of Liubliana was founded, he was appointed professor there and President of the Examining Board for Constitutional Law, which post he held until compelled to give up work by the painful disease which unfortunately proved fatal. Shortly before his death he was engaged in writing a large work on the infractions of international obligations and their judicial consequences. In spite of his German education, Dr. Zolger was always first and foremost a Slovene; his sons he sent from Vienna to Maribor to be educated at a Slovene school.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Lloyds Bank in Egypt.

Until recent years none of the great British banks was directly interested abroad. Now most of them have subsidiary companies, while Lloyds Bank in taking over the business of Cox and Co., the famous army agents, two years ago, acquired a very important connection in the East. It thus became concerned in Egypt, where the Bank of British West Africa, in which Lloyds Bank is the principal shareholder, also operates. It has now been decided to amalgamate the business of the two banks in Egypt and as from the close of business on May 30, they will be carried on in the name of Lloyds Bank for the benefit of both banks, Lloyds taking over all the Egyptian assets and liabilities of the Bank of British West Africa. Lloyds Bank has retained the services of the principal officials of the Bank of British West Africa in Egypt, and two directors of the Bank of British West Africa will join the Egyptian Committee of Lloyds Bank in London.

Phœnix Oil Progress.

Mr. E. Manville, chairman of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, has recently returned from a visit to Roumania, and in a short circular to the shareholders gives the impressions he has obtained during his visit. He points out that the progress made since last year is evident from the fact that the production for the first part of this year is at a substantially increased rate, as is likewise the throughput of the refineries, and although the production from month to month must necessarily fluctuate, there is every reason to believe that the total output for this year will be greatly in excess of that for 1924. The drilling operations are progressing at a satisfactory rate, and considerable development is taking place in new areas which are being opened up, while negotiations with the Roumanian Government for the acquisition of State reserve oil lands are almost completed. In view of the satisfactory progress of the concern the report for last year, which should be forthcoming shortly, will be awaited with considerable interest.

Smyrna Dried Fruits.

We publish in this issue a statement on the Smyrna Dried Fruit industry by one of the largest firms in the trade, which will remove the misgivings aroused by a series of articles on the subject in the *Daily Mail* from the pen of Dr. Haden Guest, M.P. No one wished to question Dr. Guest's sincerity in drawing his lurid picture of conditions as he saw them in Smyrna, but it was difficult to explain in the light of his articles how it had come to pass that the cake-and pudding-eating public of Great Britain had not long ago been wiped out as a result of the hair-raising, heart-rending, stomach-turning, things which this earnest Member of Parliament had seen. The explanation which had escaped the hurried tourist's notice, is, of course, that in Smyrna there are packing establishments and packing establishments; most of these, it will be found, are conducted on approved sanitary lines, whereas a few admittedly leave something to be desired. By an unfortunate chance Dr. Guest saw one of the latter. Now, if Dr. Haden Guest is in the habit of buying pieces of chocolate from street hawkers, it is to be hoped that he makes strict inquiries where the tray of chocolate was kept the previous night, for, should it have been under the hawker's bed, it might be advisable for him to inspect the bed to see that there was no dust underneath it. If on the other hand he is accustomed to buy his chocolate from reputable firms, he can eat it without troubling to make any investigations. In the same way, we imagine, the dried fruit trade of Great Britain can be relied upon to obtain its goods from reputable packing establishments in Smyrna, and so the British public can go on eating the Smyrna product, feeling grateful to Dr. Haden Guest for having had its attention called to the admirable conditions of the Smyrna dried fruit trade as far as the supply of the fruit to this country is concerned.

Wembley Prospects.

A good deal is being said about the small attendances at Wembley, but I think it would be possible to make too much of the fact that so far last year's totals have not been quite equalled. It was not until June last year that the Exhibition could be really called complete, and the public has a long memory for these things. As a matter of fact, the present exhibition is not finished, or at least it was not when I was there in the middle of last week. Now that we are in June, Wembley will probably find a difference. Personally, however, I think it would be unreasonable to look for the throngs of last summer, since many who have been once may not want to come again, for however great the attractions of Wembley a tour round is a very tiring business, but that there will be a fair number of visitors throughout I do not doubt. Yesterday proves that. Every omnibus and train that I saw going in the Wembley direction was packed, and while Whitsuntide is an exceptional period, I imagine that after another week or so we shall hear comparatively few complaints on the score of lack of visitors.

Some Impressions.

One thing that strikes one very forcibly at Wembley is the beauty of the surroundings this year. Despite what

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landscape gardeners may say on the subject, scenery like a good vintage requires time to mature. The flowers and shrubs were excellent last year, but there was about them a suggestion of newness, and they did not look quite natural. Now the grounds of Wembley look like a well kept park which has been carefully tended for decades, and if only there were more trees to shade off the buildings the vista would be perfect. The exhibits themselves are much the same as before—in type I hasten to add in case someone should hasten to point out to me that many novelties and changes have been introduced—but there are some shortcomings. The engineering exhibits are no more, and it can scarcely be maintained that the railway exhibits which have taken their place entirely fill the gap, and here and there are pavilions which are no longer utilised for their original purposes. But changes of these kind are inevitable when an exhibition is prolonged beyond its original period, and Wembley as it stands should be an unfailing attraction during the warm summer days.

Sudan Trade.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first two months of this year do not make quite such a favourable showing as the corresponding months of 1924. The volume of trade was £E1,446,648 as compared with £E1,545,742, a decrease of £E99,094. Imports were down by £E79,709, this being due to a drop of £E153,855 in Government imports, public imports showing the substantial rise of £E74,066. Exports declined by £E39,006, but re-exports and transit trade showed respective increases of £E8,889 and £E10,812. The principal declines in Government imports were in machinery, timber and railway sleepers, and iron and steel ware, and in view of the fact that various development projects are on the tapis this must be regarded as a transient feature. As regards public imports tea, coffee, and machinery all show sharp falls. On the other hand, cotton piece goods have risen from £E131,442 to £E207,007, while other items showing substantial increases are sacks, and iron and steel ware. It is to be noted that the range of the Sudan market shows every sign of broadening, and the requirements are now of a most varied description. Turning to exports millet was up from £E28,492 to £E84,544, while notable increases also took place in respect of ground nuts, sesame, and cattle. The principal decreases were in ginned cotton, £E99,811 as compared with £E186,523, and gum, £E82,483 as against £E150,321. The fall in the value of the cotton exports was very largely due to the decline in the price of the commodity, the quantity of cotton exported being 17,035 kantars as compared with 25,021 kantars.

Rubber Rising Again.

After falling to just over 2s. 6d. per lb. rubber last week commenced the upward climb again, and when the market closed for the holidays stood at 3s. 0½d. The new movement was due to renewed buying for the Continent and America, and no doubt the publication of the figures for the London stocks will reveal a further sharp decline on the week, thus bringing the stocks here to within reach of vanishing point. With stocks as low as they are it is a matter for extreme surprise that the price of the commodity is no higher than it is. If the present situation had existed in the dim pre-war period rubber would have soared upwards, but to-day nothing seems to happen in accordance with preconceived notions. From the point of view of the industry no less than that of industry as a whole, it is well that the tendency has not been to rise unduly. With rubber between 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. producers can make ample profits, but if it rises to, say, the neighbourhood of 5s. the only result will be to handicap industry generally. If, however, the restriction scheme were to be abandoned or larger releases were provided for under the scheme we might before long be faced with another surplus of rubber and a further slump. Truly it is a nice problem steering between the Charybdis of low prices and the Scylla of scarcity.

America and Rubber.

Needless to say, America is getting disturbed at the rubber position. The manufacturers there have been complaining that the restriction scheme constitutes an intolerable restraint on trade, and the Department of Commerce has been making investigations into the position. I am afraid I have not the slightest sympathy with the Americans over this question. The fact that they put off buying as long as they could in the winter months was responsible for the increase under the scheme being 5 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. Since then they have had to buy with the result that rubber has reached its present price. The situation has developed as it has very largely because of the great expansion in the consumption of rubber, and as there is every indication that this process will continue as the world is taking more and more rapidly to motor traction it scarcely needs emphasis that the position is one with which rubber producers have every reason to be satisfied. The main grievance of the Americans is that they are now by the process of events being made to pay an economic price for their rubber. But they themselves, if I may be allowed to say so, have on various occasions impressed the moral on other countries that they would make the best bargain they could for their produce, and they have no ground for complaint if we do the same. As a matter of fact the increased price of rubber is going to benefit this country in a variety of ways. It is for one thing rendering most useful service in supporting the exchange and for another it is widening the income tax field, a fact which the Chancellor doubtless allowed for in his estimates. From our point of view, in fact, the higher the price of rubber provided it does not rise to a point at which consumption may be checked the better.

A Declining Turkish Industry.

A recent issue of the *Manchester Guardian* contained an interesting article by its Constantinople Correspondent on the decline of carpet making in Turkey. The writer points out that the present state of decay of the industry cannot be attributed wholly to the transfer of Greek and Armenian carpet weavers to Greece, for while that is an important factor the decline from an artistic standpoint had begun a number of years before the war. In this connection he makes the interesting point that it affects carpet making in the Near East as a whole and not merely in Turkey. "The Caucasus, Persia, Turkestan, right down to the Middle East, are all involved in it. They have been the theatres of so many wars, revolutions, and regroupings lately that the quiet village life of diligent artisanship, carrying on the traditions of inventive colour and varied design, has largely disappeared. Alongside of this extermination of the peasant artists there has come the increasing and proportionally vulgarising European demand. This put an end to the arabesques of native fancy, the diversity of woven motif and combination of dyes, that made hardly two oriental carpets of thirty ago alike. The European buyer wanted more carpets and quicker delivery, and so there came into the industry an inevitable monotony due to intensive production and uninspired repetition. A more mechanical symmetry replaced the charm of the old individual execution." The writer adds that in Greece "the 'Turkish carpet,' in its modern and less truly artistic form, is being manufactured at lower prices and with all the conditions of mechanical perfection which the wholesale European buyers demand. Meanwhile Anatolia is being left behind, despite the oft-repeated refrain that Turkish carpets of real value can only be made of Anatolian wool and are best treated with vegetable dyes prepared in Anatolia itself."

COMMENTATOR.

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THE COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES OF AZERBAIJAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

One of the results of the Great War has been the creation of a number of small states, such as the Caucasian republic of Azerbaijan, established by the Soviet rulers of Russia.

The territory of this co-called "independent" republic consists of the former Russian Governments of Elisabethpol or Ganja and Baku in Transcaucasia and comprises an area of 48,307 square miles with a population, according to the census of 1917, of 2,138,400 inhabitants, of which Turco-Tartars form the bulk, while there are some thousands of Armenians, Georgians, Russians, and German colonists as well as some Jews and Persians.

The country comprises the Nishny Karayas Steppe, the districts of Kazakh, Elisabethpol, Shusha, the Karabagh mountain district, the Steppes of Paigambar, Shirinkum, Mughan, Salyan and Shirvan and the districts of Djavat, Lenkoran, Baku, Kuba ,Nukha, and Shemakha.

In the south-west, south-east and north-east, the country is mountainous and covered with fine forests of beech, oak, acorn, etc., whereas the remaining part of the country looks to the traveller who passes from Tiflis by railway to Baku, to consist of only sterile mountain chains and hills and arid steppes, varied occasionally by more or less extensive fertile plains. Despite this desolate aspect, the country has a very considerable commercial and industrial importance. The central part of the country is partly watered by the lower courses of the rivers Kura, Aras, Yora, Alasan, Samur, and a great many smaller rivers and streams and consists in the north-west mostly of hilly steppes and in the south-east of extensive plains. The hills and steppes are not bad pasture grounds for sheep and camels. Where water for irrigation is procurable a luxuriant vegetation springs up, producing all kinds of crops and fruits, the soil being very fertile and the climate hot in summer and mild in winter.

The country produces excellent wheat, barley, and sesame, and all kinds of vegetables, splendid melons and very good grapes from which the German colonists make wine which is exported to Baku and other places. In some places vineyards cover many thousands of hectares of land. Recently olive trees have been planted at Baku, promising good results. Large areas are covered with the wild liquorice plant, the roots of which have been exported principally to America. Cotton is, however, the product of the greatest commercial value. It was introduced here about 25 years ago, and since that time extensive plantations have developed along the banks of the lower course of the Kura River, between the towns of Djavat and Salyany, and nearly as far as the mouth of the river. The results have been more than satisfactory, and as cotton on Russian territory has been produced only at Turkestan in Central Asia, it is obvious what importance attaches to the production of cotton in a place with such easy communication as the Kura Valley has via Baku and the Caspian ports of Russia on one side, and Tiflis-Batoum on the way to western Russia and European countries on the other.

The cotton plantations are irrigated by the water from the Kura River, but unfortunately in such a primitive way that so far only a very small part of the steppe has been utilised. The irrigation is carried out by means of a water-mill wheel of about four to five yards in diameter, adjusted between two barges and supplied with leather buckets fastened to the brim of the wheel. The wheel is turned by the stream and the buckets raise the water above the level of the bank, which is about 5 to 6 feet above the river, and empty the water into a gutter, along which it flows to the highest point of the plantation, where the water is either collected in a basin and from it distributed over the field, or is directly discharged. As, however, the level of the river water is liable to frequent changes, depending as it does on the rains in the mountains, it sometimes happens that the wheel does not reach the gutter and the plantation remains without water. As the land on both sides of the river gradually rises, it is clear that the largest part of it cannot be irrigated by the existing methods. A regular system of canalisation, like that which the former Russian Government constructed near Tiflis at the Karayas steppe, would make it possible to place many thousands of acres under cotton and other profitable crops.

Through the utilisation of the Kisra, Aras and other rivers, a great part of the steppes of Paigambar, Shirinkom, Shirvan and Mughan could be irrigated. In the fisheries along the Caspian coast this country possesses another important source of revenue. These fisheries belonged to the Crown and were rented by Armenians. How profitable the fishing industry must have been can be gathered from the fact, that the rent paid for a fortnight's fishing on about 500 yards of the river, in the spring, when sturgeons and other big fish crowd into the river, amounted to £25,000.

By far the greatest resources this country possesses are the oil fields in the neighbourhood of Baku, as well as at many other places in the Kura Valley. Those oil fields have yielded enormous revenues during the last 50 years, and are still producing considerable quantities of oil, despite the Soviet rule. Many oil fields have not yet been explored, but surface indications suggest that they might be very promising enterprises. The mountain regions contain valuable deposits of different minerals such as copper, lead, gold, silver, iron, cobalt, etc.

The tobacco crop in Transcaucasia for 1924 is reported to be of better quality than that of the previous year.

During 1924 tobacco in Greece paid a revenue to the Government of about half a million drachmæ. Tobacco taxes in Greece are much higher than in Bulgaria, which takes only 15 per cent. from tobacco in taxes; or in Turkey, which takes only 12½ per cent. Because of such high taxation, Greece has been thrown into unfavourable competition with Turkey and Bulgaria (says an American Consular report). Efforts are being made to create more favourable conditions for the exportation of Greek tobacco.

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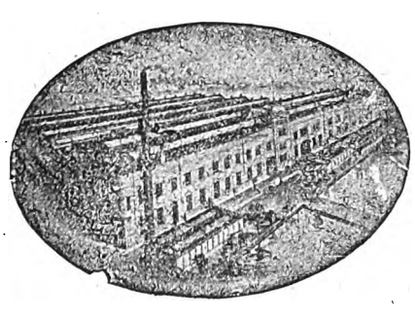
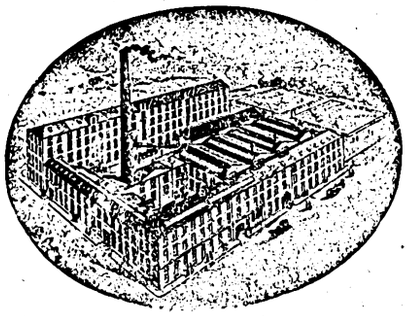
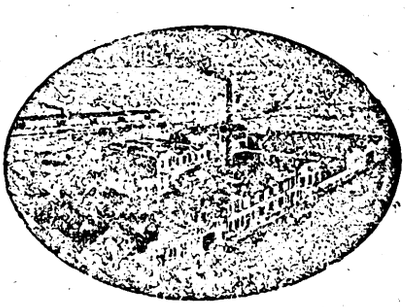

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SUDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Annual Meeting.

The development of the trade of the Sudan and the growing recognition that the country offers an attractive field for investment were among the points emphasised by Mr. W. T. Bostock, President of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, in his address at the recent annual general meeting of that body. He said:—

I am pleased to hear that the work on the Port Sudan harbour has already been commenced. The new extensions include the construction of bunkering sheds on the Quarantine Island and will leave space for two additional berths on the East side for loading and unloading cargo. These improvements are being effected none too soon. Last year the number of ships which entered the harbour was 675 as against 567 in 1923. The amount of coal imported was 177,000 tons of which 91,000 were used for bunkering. The figures for January and February this year are 117 ships and 16,293 tons of coal used in bunkering which averages at a much higher figure than last year.

Customs returns show an increase in both imports and exports over the previous year. Imports total £E.5,474,910 against £E. 4,669,004 in 1923 and exports total £E. 3,541,866 as against £E. 2,562,091 in the previous year. The increases are enormous, £E. 800,000 on the imports and nearly a million pounds on the exports. On the import side flour, sugar, coffee, tea, oil fuel, timber, coal, sacks and cement show increases while iron and steel, perfumery, internal combustion engines show a decrease. On the export side cotton shows an increase of a million, cotton seed £E. 85,000, ground nuts £E. 73,000, and durra £E. 29,000, while gum was less by £E. 160,000, cattle, sheep and goats by £E. 37,000.

Our chief customers are Great Britain and Egypt. Both show an increase in the import schedule as well as India. Our exports to Great Britain have increased from £E. 972,000 to over £E. 2,000,000, cotton and cotton-seed being chiefly responsible.

Now as regards the future. The most pleasing aspect of the situation is the definite sign of the growing attraction of the Sudan as a field for foreign investment. It is apparent, not only that investors in other countries are showing a great deal of interest, but that people here are realising that it is to their advantage to make their propositions attractive. This country needs fresh capital to develop its resources and I am pleased to see the advent of the long looked for ordinance enabling companies to be registered in the Sudan. With all the money that has been spent on this country we are only now on the threshold of development. Our thoughts are naturally centred on the Gezireh and that magnificent achievement of Messrs. Pearson and Sons, the Makwar Dam. Next year's cotton crop will show us how we stand and if the great experiment succeeds as we have every reason to believe it will, the future prosperity of the Sudan is assured.

The Ringhoffer Works, Prague, have received orders for the supply of 236 railway trucks for the Madras Railway and for the South India Railway Co.

The management of the Roumanian Railways have begun to take the necessary steps for providing transport for the new crop, which promises to be exceptionally abundant.

A contract for 35 locomotives for the Egyptian State Railways has been given to the North British Locomotive Works at £6,245 each, while an order for 15 has been placed with the Linke-Holmann-Lauchhammer group at £E5,930 each.

ZIONIST WORK IN PALESTINE.

In connection with the Palestine Pavilion at the Wembley Exhibition, a film illustrating the latest Jewish developments in Palestine is shown by the Zionist Organisation every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, at 4.30 p.m., in the West African Cinema.

The film was shown for the first time on May 13, when Mr. Israel Cohen gave an address on the status of Palestine and the many-sided activities that are being carried on there by the Zionist Organisation as well as by private enterprise. He showed the connection between the pre-War Jewish colonisation in the Holy Land and the work that is now being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Palestine Mandate. During the last five years some 40,000 Jewish settlers had established themselves in the country. Those who entered under the auspices of the Zionist Organisation were all picked men and women, selected by the various Palestine Bureaux on the Continent from the tens of thousands of applicants. The Zionist Organisation looked after these immigrants upon their arrival in Palestine, providing them with such assistance as was necessary, and assigning them to different parts of the land, where their labour could best be utilised. The Organisation also bought large areas of land, made them fit for cultivation, engaged in irrigation and afforestation, constructed roads, and steadily increased the number of Jewish rural settlements. It also promoted urban developments, maintained a large and well-organised educational system, and helped to conduct an efficient public health service. During the last few years the Zionist Organisation had spent £6,000,000 in Palestine, and at least half that amount had also been expended by other Jewish organisations and private individuals, whilst the average annual expenditure of the Zionist Organisation and its subsidiary institutions was not less than £500,000 per annum. Mr. Cohen emphasised the fact that the civil administration of Palestine did not cost the British tax-payer a single penny, the only contribution from the British Exchequer consisting of the cost of the British troops, which had been reduced year by year. He said that the remarkable progress that had been made in the country during the last few years was due entirely to the generosity of Jews in all parts of the world, and stressed the desirability of a more intelligent appreciation of the developments in Palestine on the part of the non-Jewish world.

The film that was shown was a vivid and interesting portrayal of all aspects of the work of Jewish colonisation in Palestine, and contained charming views of the Zionist settlements.

The Jamrud-Landi Kotal section of the Khyber military ropeway built in 1919 is, in view of the prospective opening of the Khyber railway in October, offered for sale. The ropeway did good service in the Afghan War of 1919.

Reuter reports from Teheran that the Mejliss has approved the engagement of 12 more American officials for the Finance Department.

The Board of Trade are advised that the restrictions on the sale and purchase of foreign currency in Bulgaria have recently been considerably extended by the Government, acting through the National Bank of Bulgaria, which holds a monopoly in the business of foreign exchange. The restrictions govern the purchase of sterling and other foreign currency generally, but appear to affect more especially the payment of insurance premiums. The restrictions may be of a temporary nature only. Further information can be obtained on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

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THE SMYRNA DRIED FRUIT TRADE.

In the following report, Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, reply to criticisms of the Smyrna dried fruit trade made in a series of articles in the *Daily Mail* by Dr. Haden Guest, M.P.

The view taken of these articles, both by the dried fruit trade in England and by the Constantinople and Smyrna Press, is reflected in the following extracts from some of the numerous letters we have received from our different correspondents.

One of our correspondents writes as follows:—"The campaign is obviously designed to boom Colonial dried fruits at the expense of the foreign article." Another correspondent states:—"Our grocers do not worry much about the *Daily Mail* articles, as they know that plenty of other foods which they handle, prepared in England itself, would hardly bear investigation."

One of our most important clients in Scotland, who for years has received large supplies of dried fruits from us, writes to us:—We enclose cuttings from the *Daily Mail re* dried fruits, and we also send you copy of a letter we have addressed to the Editor of that newspaper along with copy of your illustrated pamphlet." In the above letter our clients make the following statement:—"From our long experience we can assure you of the beautifully packed, clean and perfect condition in which the dried fruits arrive here. The serious charges made by your correspondent are astounding."

Every article that has so far appeared in the Turkish Press expresses the view that the articles are a propaganda in favour of colonial fruits, the quality and cost of which cannot compare with Smyrna produce.

Dr. Haden Guest visited Smyrna last month; Dr. Haden Guest spent a few hours in the town; Dr. Guest came, saw, and unreservedly condemns. There are about forty packing establishments in Smyrna, all, with one single exception, stone-built buildings, well enclosed, with one, two, or more floors.

Dr. Haden Guest visited two or three establishments, but appears to have concentrated his attention more particularly on the single exception, the only wooden built store existing in Smyrna.

This is a one-floored store, originally intended and used for many years as a railway shed, with large exits on all sides giving on to the streets. It is more of a covered passage than a store, and is now indiscriminately used for the packing of fruit, storing of Valonea, agricultural implements, etc., part of the premises being utilised by an iron-smith and for a box factory. The various tenants' boundaries are defined by low wooden partitions. This building is in no way representative of the packing establishments of the leading shippers in the trade which, we may say, are all closed down at this time of the year and were not available for Dr. Guest's inspection.

We can give some information as to how things are actually run during the packing season which, commencing in August, usually terminates in the early winter months. We simply state facts which are common knowledge to the trade and can be borne out by quite independent evidence.

Contrary to Dr. Guest's statement, with the single exception of the wooden store above referred to, all the packing establishments are stone built, well ventilated, and efficiently drained buildings and all regulations connected with their inspection and control are strictly enforced.

In the month of July these stores are thoroughly washed and cleaned out, the services of the fire brigade being often availed of for removing the dust from the roof or high walls. The stores are then whitewashed and copiously disinfected with lime, carbolic acid, etc. All implements, machinery, tools, tables, workmen's aprons, pails, water tanks, etc., are carefully washed and prepared for the approaching packing season.

Some fortnight in advance of the opening of the season every establishment has to enrol its labourers and hand in a detailed list to the medical officers who examine every man or woman individually and, if satisfied with their state of health, deliver to them the necessary identification card without which no one is allowed to work in a packing establishment. A continual control is exercised throughout the season over the packing establishments, not only by the sanitary inspectors, but also, as explained further on, by the agents of the United States Consular Authorities. The U.S. Consulate has not hesitated to refuse its health certificate to any shipper whose packing mehtods have not been approved of.

To the United States Government must be given the credit for the improved sanitary methods which were introduced into the trade in the early part of the present century. Consul Harris, some twenty years ago, claimed the right on behalf of his Government, to appoint medical men selected annually by the American Consulate, to inspect and report on the packing establishments shipping fruit to the United States. A code of regulations was drawn up by him and these regulations were approved of by the Turkish Government and have been occasionally modified or amended according to the dictates of experience.

Up to 1923, the United States Consulate annually appointed medical inspectors, but it has since arranged for co-operation with the Turkish sanitary and medical authorities and this has permitted of a larger staff of inspectors being employed and has made for closer and more efficient inspection and control.

The activities of the American Consulate are unceasing. During the past season, Mr. MacMillan, attached to the Commercial Department of the American High Commission of Constantinople, was here throughout the packing season. Clothed in a serviceable working suit, Mr. MacMillan throughout the day and during the whole season, displayed unflagging energy in his rounds of all the packing establishments working for the States. Before the season was over, Mr. John H. Hynes, American Trade Commissioner, attached to the Embassy at Rome visited Smyrna, made a thorough inspection of the methods in force, and despatched to his Government the most com-

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prehensive report on the Smyrna fruit trade which we have ever perused. The summary of this report was cabled to the United States and subsequently appeared at length in all the trade journals in that country.

The United States Consulate here has compiled a vast extent of information relating to the Smyrna fruit trade, and all this information is at the disposal of the body of experts which are in the service of the American Government, and whose knowledge and efficiency is beyond question.

We hold no brief for the trade, and are prepared to admit that some shippers, from motives of economy or otherwise, endeavour to evade the regulations in force, and the sooner these men are brought to book the better for the credit and reputation of Smyrna dried fruits.

A cursory overhaul of our own packing establishment's expenses during the past season reveals the fact that special gangs of men and women were employed for the sole purpose of keeping the premises, lavatories, etc., in a thorough state of cleanliness. The weekly disbursement has averaged about £T150, as could be certified by our auditors, a British firm of chartered accountants. We say this in no spirit of self-advertisement as we are convinced that, like ourselves, all leading packers here spend hundreds of pounds sterling during the season for a similar purpose.

For nearly a century thousands of tons of Smyrna figs and raisins have been shipped to the United Kingdom, and we challenge Dr. Haden Guest or any sanitary authority or food inspector to substantiate a single case of harm having resulted from the consumption of these fruits, be it in their raw or baked state. In *The Times* of May 8, there appeared a paragraph analysing 100 cases of food poisoning which had been very recently examined into by the food inspectors. Meats and canned foods of different descriptions were responsible for these cases and no single case of ill effects resulting from dried fruits in instanced.

Dr. Haden Guest should not judge too much or allow himself to be misled by appearances. The natives here may be poorly clad and thus impress a casual stranger as dirty and untidy. But, taking the twenty thousand labourers working in this town in the fruit, tobacco, or other trades, we are convinced that, under a strict medical examination, this body would compare favourably from the point of view of bodily health and cleanliness, with any similar number of workpeople in England or on the Continent. The native here is frugal, sober, and thrifty, invariably owns his own dwelling, and, by the doctrines of his religion, keeps his person clean, and has also the advantage of abundance of water and excellent climatic conditions.

A visit of a few hours at a time of the year when the majority of the packing establishments are closed down, a cursory inspection of two or three stores and the publication of a series of articles calculated to condemn a whole trade, justify to some extent the view taken in many quarters that the campaign has been inspired solely for the purpose of booming Empire grown fruits.

In conclusion, we desire to state that we do not for a moment question the statement of the *Daily Mail* that "No one is better fitted than Dr. Haden Guest to deal with the subject." But what we contend is that Dr. Haden Guest's reports have gone far beyond fair or reasonable criticism and comment and appear to be based on very insufficient information.

Aquila Franco-Romana.—Including the amount brought forward, the profit for 1924 amounted to 20,457,678 lei. The dividend has been fixed at 9½ per cent.

The Phœnix Oil and Transport Company announces that the accounts for the year ended December 31, 1924, being in an advanced condition, it is expected that it will be possible to hold the annual ordinary general meeting in July.

The directors of the British Overseas Bank have declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent. per annum (3s. per share, less tax), payable on June 15, 1925, to "A" ordinary shareholders in respect of the half-year ended April 30, 1925.

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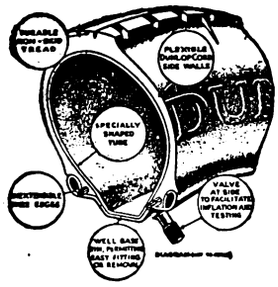

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PERENNIAL COTTON EXPERIMENTS IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has recently published a report describing some ratoon cotton experiments in Egypt. The author of the report—a preliminary note on the work—is Mr. James Templeton, B.Sc., Botanist to the Ministry, and in the light of what he has to say a further report will be awaited with extreme interest, for it is obvious that if the utilisation of ratoon cotton on a large scale is a practical proposition its introduction will be a matter of great importance. In a preface to the note Mr. Templeton states that in 1922 twenty wide-spaced cotton plants of the Sakellarides type were under daily observation as regards flower and boll production and "shedding." They were left in the ground for a further year, when similar observation were carried out, and the comparison of the results was so striking as to suggest that a complete investigation of the perennial cotton plant would be worth while.

Cotton cultivation in Egypt on a considerable scale dates back to 1821, when Jumel cotton was grown as a perennial and was uprooted after three years. Little literature dealing with cotton, Mr. Templeton points out, is available from Mohammed Ali's time till the second half of the last century, but from what there is the fact emerges that a change had taken place in the method of cotton cultivation, and that it was now grown as an annual. Both methods were certainly practised up to 1909, though the annual method naturally predominated, and from 1909 onwards the choice of method was taken out of the hands of the vast majority of cultivators when the Government passed a law prohibiting the practice of leaving cotton plants in the ground more than one season except in certain specified districts.

Mr. Templeton thinks that the difficulties attaching to irrigation brought about the change from perennial to annual cotton. From 1821 until 1890, when the Delta Barrage was finally put in proper working order, cotton could only be watered by the primitive method of raising water from the canals. The quantity of land which could be watered by one water-wheel varied greatly according to the crop, and apparently it was found in Mohammed Ali's reign that cotton was an unprofitable crop on the good lands. In this connection the writer quotes Sir Gardner Wilkinson, who stated in his "Modern Egypt and Thebes" that "one water-wheel with eight oxen irrigated three feddans of cotton as compared with a combined cultivation of seven feddans of wheat, two feddans of millet, and eight feddans of Indian corn, which together gave a better return than the cotton." The cultivator was compelled to grow some cotton, and in the circumstances it is suggested that he would obviously tend to grow it as an annual and thus have the land free for winter crops. With the death of Mohammed Ali in 1849 the compulsion to grow cotton ceased, but a variety of factors led to the continuance of cotton cultivation. For one thing, in consequence of certain treaties with Turkey, the export duty was gradually reduced from ten to one per cent., while the shortage of cotton as a result of the American Civil War brought about a rapid rise in the price of cotton. Cotton growing in Egypt thus received an impetus, and while the plant was now mainly grown as an annual, perennial cultivation continued to be quite common until 1909, when the law to which reference has already been made was passed, the introduction of which was designed to combat the boll-worm. Here we have the second of the three causes adduced by the writer leading to the change in the form of cultivation. The idea obtained that perennial cotton shelters insects in the winter, particularly the ordinary boll-worm and the pink boll-worm, and so results in an increased attack in the following season. Though the question of insect pests probably had nothing to do with the initiation of the change from the perennial to the annual method of cultivations, says Mr. Templeton, it was certainly on account of them that the perennial method was finally abolished. Finally there is the question of the yield and quality of the lint obtained from perennial cotton. On this point Mr. Templeton points out that perennial cultivation was being given up at a time when little or no consideration was given to the question of quality. Summing up the available evidence, the writer states that it sems to indicate that the cotton plant gives a higher yield in its second year than in its first, and that there is, if any, not a serious deterioration in the quality of the lint. After all, he adds, one does not usually expect a perennial shrub to give of its best in its first year, either as regards yield or quality of fruit, and there is no apparent reason why the cotton plant should be exceptional in this respect. His view is that it is scarcely tenable that it was on account of a deterioration in the yield or quality of the cotton after the first year that the cultivator gave up growing the plant as a perennial.

Describing the experiments on the twenty plants of the Sakellarides type, Mr. Templeton states that it was recognised that to leave the plants as they were after the second and last picking of 1922, with numerous green bolls still attached, almost all of which contained boll-worms, would result in the pests being carried over to the following season. Accordingly on February 27, 1923, they were pruned, the plants being cut down to within fifty centimetres of the ground, the cut branches being at once burned. During the winter no water was given to the plants. In 1923 flowering was general about three weeks earlier than in 1922, and was much more prolific, while shedding of bolls, in proportion to flowers produced, was less, both of which facts foreshadowed a higher yield. The bolls were picked daily as they opened, but in the surrounding belt the usual two pickings were taken, six weeks earlier than in the case of another plot of Sakellarides near by. Bolls actually picked from the twenty plants numbered 2,416 as compared with 1,136 in 1922, there being thus an increase of more than 100 per cent. in the second year. Under annual cultivation, however, cotton plants are never wide-spaced, so that similar results would not necessarily be obtained under normal field conditions. The loss due to boll-worm attack appeared to be less in 1923 than in 1922, on account of the earlier maturity of the crop. As pruning at the end of the first season would prevent any carry over of cotton pests, and as picking was six weeks earlier than in the case of plants of the same variety in their first year, Mr. Templeton states that it would almost appear that leaving plants in the ground for two years might actually result in decreasing the pest. The quality of the cotton in the second year, he adds, at least did not appear to be inferior to that of the first. Samples have been supplied to expert graders for examination, and their opinions will be recorded in a later paper.

The results achieved in these preliminary experiments are decidedly interesting, and all who are concerned with the improvement of cotton cultivation will look forward to the fuller report, which will deal with the tests which are now in progress. If it may be assumed that the subsequent trials will be as favourable as those which Mr. Templeton has described—and in the light of what he says there seem excellent grounds for anticipating that they will be—then a strong case will have been made out for an alteration of the law of 1909. If perennial cotton means both a larger yield and greater freedom from pests, the importance of a change from the annual method needs no emphasis. As far as Egypt is concerned, however, it is necessary to envisage the situation with some caution. Perennial cotton requires the sole use of land, and that means that winter crops now grown must be dispensed with. Obviously the introduction of perennial cotton on a large scale would depend on the effect that would be exercised by this factor.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPPING SERVICES TO YUGOSLAVIA.

The Shipowners' Federation of Yugoslavia (the headquarters of which are at Sushak) recently held a meeting at Zagreb. After the report of the President had been read, the Zagreb Chamber of Commerce approved the action of the Federation in calling the attention of the Government to the necessity of establishing regular maritime services between Dalmatia, the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea in the commercial interests of the country.

The proposed regular connections are as under:—

(1) A regular fortnightly service Sushak, Dalmatia, Albania, Greece (as far as Salonika). (2) A regular monthly line, Galatz, Constantza, Constantinople, Salonika, Greece, Albania, Ragusa, with extension to Ragusa to the Western ports of Italy, Marseilles and return. (3) A regular two-weekly service Sushak, ports of Dalmatia, Ragusa, Greece, (Salonika) Smyrna, Syria, Alexandria. Later the line would be diverted to Ragusa with calls at the Southern ports of Italy, the South Coast of Spain and N. Africa. (4) Regular fortnightly cargo service Sushak-Salonika, the Piraeus, Alexandria, with calls at intermediate ports.

To realise this project (says a Paris contemporary) the Federation of Shipowners and the Zagreb Chamber of Commerce have petitioned the Government to conclude with the various steamship companies stable contracts for a duration of five to ten years and to increase the subsidies to the merchant marine to 50,000,000 dinars per annum.

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, June 9). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 6); s.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Corfu, Brindisi, Bari, Gruz, Fiume, and other ports (Liverpool, June 11).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 11); s.s Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, July 4).

P .and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, June 12); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Mersina (London, June 10).

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended May 21, state:—Since our last report the futures market has been quiet, the tendency being weaker for both Sakel and Ashmouni; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 3.45 dollars down for May, 2.50 dollars down for July, 0.02 dollars down for November, 0.05 dollars down for January. Ashmouni 0.08 dollars down for June, unchanged for August, 0.68 dollars up for October, 0.70 dollars up for December.

There is again very little fresh to say about the market. The demand from abroad has been almost as poor as last week; spinners have continued to buy only their absolute requirements and these do not amount to a great deal. The May Sakel option runs out to-morrow. No important quantity of dockets is anticipated; this is somewhat astonishing as there must still exist a certain quantity of tenderable cotton which, in view of the heavy discount of July and the actual poorness of the demand, ought to induce tenders against May contracts. June Ashmouni has been dull, despite the recovery of New York. We do not think that spinners have yet shown any serious interest in new crop cotton. The week's receipts amount to Crs 8,532 against exports Crs 39,964; the stock stands at Crs 871,116.

Spot: Minet el Bassal though still a quiet market has shown a slight improvement on last week, and sales amount to about 4,700 B/s of which we estimate 1,100 B/s Sakel, 3,200 Uppers, 250 B/s Zagora, 150, B/s Pilion and a few bales of Brown.

Sakellarides: The decline in prices has apparently enabled spinners to do a little business and rather more interest has been shown in this growth. Most of the business has been in the medium and lower qualities and only a very small inquiry has appeared for the better grades. Spot differences are generally considerably easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in good request and a good business has been done in all qualities except the very high grades which have met with only a small inquiry. Spot differences are unchanged.

Pilion: Has been in moderate demand at last week's rates.

Brown: Spot differences are unchanged and nominal, only a few bales have been done.

White: Is neglected and no business is reported. Spot differences are nominally somewhat easier.

Crop 1925: The weather has been favourable and the plant has progressed normally; a continuance of these improved climatic conditions will be very welcome as it will greatly help the plant in the late fields. The water supply is sufficient.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Land Bank of Egypt.—An interim dividend has been declared (No. 30), at the rate of 5s. per share, payable June 15.

The ordinary general meeting of the Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company will be held at the company's offices, 59 and 60 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, on June 16.

Societe Anonyme du Behera.—The net profit for the year ended January 31 was £E47,897, plus £E89,779 brought forward. The directors recommend 5 per cent. on ordinary shares, making 10 per cent., carrying forward £E87,199.

The directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. propose to recommend to the half-yearly general meeting that a dividend of £2 per cent. be declared for the half-year ended March 31, 1925, making a total distribution of £3 10s. for the year, less income-tax.

Banca Commerciale Italiana and Bulgara.—The report of the Banca Commerciale Italiana and Bulgara of Sofia (an affiliation of the Banca Commerciale Italiana) for 1924, states that during the year the bank's capital was increased from 12,000,000 to 24,000,000 levas, and a branch was opened at Bourgas. The gross profits amounted to 22,654,243 levas against 15,731,000 in 1923. The general expenses were 19,905,033 levas, leaving a net profit of 2,749,210 levas. A dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, as before. Altogether 537,460 levas are placed to reserve funds, leaving 308,217 levas to be carried forward.

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CZECHO-SLOVAK NEWS ITEMS.

It is reported that a contract has just been concluded between the First Latvian Sugar Co. and the Prague engineering concern of Breitfeld, Danek and Co. for the supply and installation of plant for a sugar factory to be erected in the neighbourhood of Jelgava. The value of the contract is Kc 11,400,000. The Skoda Works, Pilsen and Prague, have also secured some considerable orders from Latvia, including the supply of plant for an electric power station at Libau. Czecho-Slovak timber exporters have received an important contract for the supply of fuel timber for the Hungarian State railways. The Kinghoffer Works, Prague, have received orders for the supply of 236 iron trucks for the Madras Railway, and for the South Indian Railway Co. In addition to this they are making 500 trucks for the Egyptian Railways.

Czecho-Slovakia's imports of grain and flour in March totalled 92,665 tons. The grain imports showed an increase of 800 tons on the figure for February, those of flour, etc., a decline of 2,000 tons. The bulk of the wheaten flour came from Germany and Hungary. The United States supplied 773 tons and England 828 tons. Imports of grain and flour during the first quarter of 1925 totalled 128,551 tons against 102,318 tons in the corresponding period of 1924.

The output of the sugar factories in April was 4,635 tons of unrefined material, compared with 7,087 tons in the same month last year. The total production during the current season to date (October to April) was 1,402,000 tons against 998,438 in the same period in 1923-24, and 733,250 tons in 1922-23. The output of molasses up to the end of April was 251,200 tons, an increase of 75,000 tons on the figure at the same date last year. The area under sugar beet this year, according to present estimates, is larger than last year, 303,300 hectares for the whole republic.

Between October and February 7,130 camels were exported from the Sudan to Egypt.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended May 22 was:—Gemsah, 16 tons (previous week 14 tons); Hurghada, 3,647 tons (3,594 tons).

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended May 10 amounted to £E8,146, making the total from April 1 £E27,426.

The exports of dura from the Sudan during the first three months of this year amounted to 12,834 tons as compared with 6,201 tons in the same period of 1924.

The exports of gum from the Sudan during March amounted to 1,962 tons, of the value of £E80,964. For the first quarter of the year the exports totalled 3,963 tons, of the value of £E163,383.

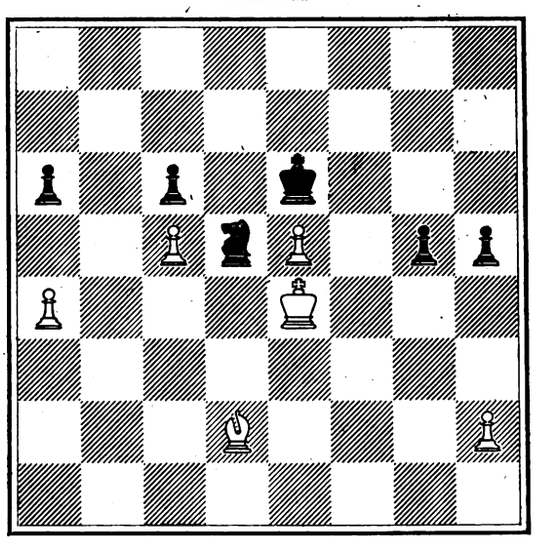
A Reuter message from Bucharest states that at a general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Roumania an agreement was unanimously approved for the extension of the bank's charter for thirty years. Another agreement with the Government for the redemption of the floating debt of 11,000,000,000 lei within fifteen years, with a gradual equivalent reduction in the fiduciary circulation, was also adopted.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97⅛	97⅜-97 $\frac{n}{16}$
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	278-280
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	293-297
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.43
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.10½-25.11½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{3}{16}$-1-6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.29½	99.30 - 99.40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,036—1,040
Budapest	Kronen to £	74 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{3}{16}$1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	890—900
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2 3	4.86—4.86⅛
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	96 90 - 97.00
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	122⅛—.⅜
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.45-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.25-25.35

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



White to play. What result?

The solution will be given next week.

Another three weeks will see the conclusion of the preliminary heats in the Murton Cup handicap at the City of London Club, and it speaks volumes for the handicapping that even at this advanced stage—the first heat is due to finish this Wednesday—it is impossible to indicate the probable finalists with any certainty. The third heat is in a particularly interesting condition. Invariably in my experience of Murton Cup heats a player who drops only 1½ points is certain to go through. So close is this heat, however, that it by no means follows that 1½ points down will be good enough to tie for second place.

Since the War holiday tournaments in this country have greatly increased. Now Scarborough has joined the list with a Whitsuntide event for the Premier Tournament of which quite a good entry has been received, including E. Spencer, M. Romikh, Dr. Groen and other well-known players.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 735.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Salonika Railway Question.

Further information regarding the breakdown of the negotiations between Greece and Yugoslavia indicates that the Belgrade Government's demands included not only the operation of the railway between the frontier and Salonika, but also the placing of the zone through which the line runs under Yugoslav administration. In these circumstances the action of the Greek delegates in rejecting these terms is not to be wondered at, in spite of the anxiety of the Greek Government to conclude a treaty of alliance with Yugoslavia. The arguments of both parties in support of their respective points of view are probably quite unanswerable, but they are equally irreconcilable. It is clear that no Greek Government could voluntarily concede the terms demanded by Yugoslavia and expect to continue in office. An alliance between the two countries, however, although desirable in itself, is not an immediate necessity. A question that seems of vital importance to one or other at the moment may ultimately find a solution in a wider federation of the Balkans which will simplify many economic problems as well as others bearing on national security.

The Turkish Opposition.

The worst of "Safety First" as a Government slogan is that it requires such a very slight personal application to become a policy of "comfort first." It is the custom in constitutional countries to extol the advantages of a parliamentary opposition, but there can be few Governments that do not find it from time to time an unmitigated nuisance. At no time in the short history of the Turkish Republic has the Opposition achieved much or even said much. It has, indeed been only a few months in existence, and to the outside observer its value as a means for enabling the administration to base itself more broadly on the national will would not appear to be counteracted by any danger of its being able to put a spoke in the Government's wheel, in view of its exiguous numbers. The President of the Republic, however, has decided that he can get on better without an opposition and the Republican Progressive Party has been forcibly dissolved. At the same time a number of prominent people who have been conspicuous for holding views of their own on political subjects have been arrested and taken to Angora. Without doubt all these persons have been guilty in the eyes of the Government of working against the security of the country, which, being interpreted, means that they have been critical of the Government's methods or policy. Until the charges brought against them are known it is not possible to say whether the Government is justified, or not, in its action. It is, however, legitimate to point out to the Turkish authorities that the reason why other Governments with greater experience of constitutionalism do not make a practice of arresting and imprisoning the opposition is that experience has conclusively shown that its disadvantages outweigh its advantages. The most obvious disadvantage is that this method of dealing with an opposition is a game at which two can play.

Angora's Narrow Outlook.

Even if it is unnecessary to contemplate any change in the presidency of the Turkish Republic during the lifetime of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, it is to be hoped that the foundations of the new State are being built to survive a longer period than the first President's mortal span, which, after all, might be terminated by unnatural means, just as any serious change in the attitude of the Turkish Army might terminate his tenure of office. In such circumstances a new Government would feel in duty bound obliged to deal with those who oppose it in Parliament as they in their day had been dealt with by the Government of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. The spectacle of an ex-President being compelled to reside in a remote insignificant village "in order to prevent citizens from being led astray or deceived" would be quite pathetic, and we are confident that, sooner or later, the Turkish Republic will find it more in keeping with its dignity to tolerate oppositions so long as they keep within constitutional limits. To disagree with the Government does not necessarily endanger the safety of the State, and if Mustapha Kemal Pasha were to indulge in a tour of Europe which would bring him into touch with people with wider administrative experience than he has been able to gain in Angora, he would speedily learn this axiom of statecraft. Europe, as a whole, desires to see Turkey quietly and intelligently governed, and nothing in connection with the country distresses it so much as to realise how often it finds itself in agreement with those Turks who are bold enough to criticise acts of the Government that to it seem to be based on inexperience or to be wholly foolish. Europe will require, therefore, very clear evidence to be convinced that the eminently sound views on political affairs in general of some of those who have been arrested or whose party has been dissolved are a cloak for some dark and disloyal scheming against the safety of the State.

Roumanian Politics.

Another country with relations between the Government and the Opposition strained beyond the ordinary differences of opinion to actual incompatibility of temperament is Roumania. After three years in the political wilderness the opposition parties have been trying to evolve a common plan of action for the purpose of defeat-

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ing the Government of M. Bratianu. One of the first results of their agreement has been an organised effort to dislocate the Government's parliamentary time-table by devoting more time to the consideration of each measure. A special attack was made on a bill for extending the privileges of the National Bank. The number of deputies wishing to address the Chamber suddenly showed a great increase, and they contrived to occupy the tribune for a considerable time. M. Bratianu has met the new development in drastic fashion. The President of the Chamber has been empowered by a majority vote to limit discussion on any subject to two speeches of not more than a quarter of an hour each. If two speeches were allowed each political party, the rule would be tolerable; but in a Chamber of half a dozen or more groups it is, if it stands as reported, a particularly unkind blow. One speech may have to be from the Government side, and an apple of discord is at once thrown among the Opposition parties for the privilege of speaking on behalf of parties to which the Deputy does not belong. Little wonder, therefore, that uproar followed the passing of the amendment; but the well-disciplined following of the Bratianu Ministry quitted the Chamber in a body and left the Opposition to hold a meeting of their own.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

The Sultan of Nejd, now in occupation of Mecca, has an excellent opportunity of bespeaking the goodwill of the Moslem world by making satisfactory arrangements for the pilgrims who are on their way to the sacred shrine. Not the least of the shortcomings of King Hussein was his studied indifference to the welfare of the pilgrims, for whom the minimum was done by the Government of the Hejaz, while it allowed them to be mercilessly fleeced from the moment of their arrival until their departure. This year attempts have been made both in India and Egypt to prevent the pilgrimage in view of the anomalous situation in the Hejaz. War is nominally in progress between King Ali and the Emir Ibn Saud, and from time to time the capture of an isolated coast town is reported. In the main theatre between Jeddah and Mecca, a state of stalemate seems to exist between the combatants; but with the arrival of the first pilgrims imminent, both King Ali and the Sultan of Nejd may be expected to find it to their interests to give all the Faithful bound for Mecca safe conduct. The Government of India has warned intending pilgrims of the difficulties and dangers to which they will be exposed, and a comparatively small pilgrimage from India proper may be expected. Moslems from other parts of Asia, however, will pass through India *en route*, and the Indian Government has taken the precaution of reminding both potentates concerned of their responsibility for the well-being of the pilgrims. In Egypt, King Ali's representative has been instructed to refuse visas to intending pilgrims to the Hejaz, and there may be some disappointment if it is found that, as a result of the British warning, Indian Moslems have been able to make the pilgrimage not only safely, but also, perhaps, in greater comfort than hitherto.

The Sirdar Murder Trial.

Eight months have passed since Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, was murdered in a street in Cairo, and last week the trial of the Egyptians accused of being implicated in the murder was concluded. No fault can now be found with the long delay in bringing the culprits to book. The task before the Egyptian authorities was an extremely difficult one, and they have done well, as the event has proved, to take their time in following up the ramifications of the crime, for they have been able to put their finger on the organisation that was responsible for some at least of the previous murders of British subjects in Cairo. Of the eight men on whom sentence of death has been passed, two more highly placed than the others, were leaders in the conspiracy. Dr. Shafik Mansur is a lawyer, a prominent Zaghloulist and a member of the Party Committee; he has been twice a deputy in the Egyptian Parliament and was Zaghloul Pasha's candidate for the post of Director-General of Public Safety. Mahmud Ismail, his lieutenant, who planned the details of the Sirdar's murder was a Civil Servant; the other prisoners were students or belonged to the artisan class, and may be regarded as mere tools in the carrying out to its logical conclusion of the campaign of inflammatory appeals to the fanaticism of the Egyptian people against Great Britain, so long associated with the Zaghloulist party and its leader.

Trouble in Samos.

The narrowness of the line that sometimes separates politics and brigandage in the Near East is exemplified by the outbreak of trouble in the Greek island of Samos. At the moment of writing information on the subject is meagre. The island was at one time the happy hunting ground of certain brigands, who apparently found a refuge when necessary in one or other of the neighbouring islands of the Dodecanese; this time they seem to have made common cause with the islanders, and to have qualified as "revolutionaries." They have at least formulated political demands in connexion with the local government of Samos; but more important still, they have taken over the funds in the Samos Treasury. A naval squadron and a military force have been despatched from Greece to deal with the outbreak, which is not likely to cause more trouble than a small increase in the Greek Budget. Greek islands have been used before as a convenient spot for raising the standard of revolt against Greece—M. Venizelos provided the last instance—but, so far as is known, there is no serious question at issue between the Samians and the Athens Government. If ever Cyprus became united with Greece, it might, on account of its size, cause considerable anxiety to the Greek authorities, if political controversy on the mainland happened to be acute.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Radiance of June.

June—the sunny, radiant June of poets and cricketers—is fully with us now. In such weather as this, with the sun blazing benignly for long hours and the moon smiling through the night breezes, there is no fairer place than England. And our people have been quick to react psychologically to the unusual change. No sooner are office hours over than the fields are scamperingly made for, and there, by the hedges and lanes, are sights to make the heart leap.

In the country that I know best, field after field shines golden with buttercups, and in the hedges the unsheltered bluebells are yet bright and fragrant. The wild roses, it is true, are not yet out, but by the flowering hawthorn hedges the cow-parsley is all frothy in its greeny-white, and the depth of the coloured grass is something to remember.

It is as flaming a June as, I remember, was the June of 1918. Since that time, when, down a little lane, called "Chemin des Dames," not far from the ruined Monchy au Bois, I saw flowers growing out of rude graves of Germans dead in 1914, there has hardly been a June like this. It is ineffably beautiful.

Our English gardens, too, are not forgetting to remind us that it is not only the uncivilised things which can take on the careless grandeur of the time. They are full of irises and wistaria and lupins and pæonies, and the early roses are throwing out magnificent promises.

So hardened have we become to dismal, fitful summers that the loveliness of these days almost dazzles the sense. If the tradition of nature-verse is not wholly dead, half a dozen imperishable lyrics should already have been written in celebration of the first week of June, 1925.

Cricket.

But if this weather is chiefly of importance to the majority because of the health that it inculcates and the beauty of the countryside that it provides, it is also, and not less abundantly, blessed by cricketers because it implies fast wickets and fast outfields. One need not be of those who regard the bowler as an underling, who slyly

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succeeds only when the skies are grey, to think that our cricket is best when the willow can get out fearlessly, without risk of popping, to meet the ball. At the moment, however, there scarcely seems sufficient enterprise among the batsmen of England to justify this abundance of sun. Our leading ones still, as they used on bowlers' wickets, play back to half-volleys: those who from the start get on top of the bowling can be counted on the hands. But a few more weeks of this, and we may see even Hearne getting out to the stuff to bring forth his old cover-shots, and Ernest Tyldesley daring to pull the straight one.

So far as one can see at this early stage, Yorkshire appear to have easily the strongest side. Lancashire are accounted their ablest opponents, but very few people in the South of England doubt that Yorkshire will again carry off the championship. Surrey's bowling is dreadfully in and out, and Middlesex are consistent only in repeatedly dismaying their supporters. On the whole, it is the weaker sides, like Somerset, Sussex, Warwickshire, and so on, who are providing the best fun and, incidentally, the best cricket. (Hobbs, of course, is in a class by himself. I do not believe a greater batsman lived). But, when all is said and attempted to be done, it is on Club and Village cricket that the interest of the really discerning amateurs of the game is directed. Study of the county championship table may safely be left to mere tennis enthusiasts.

London in June.

London herself, despite all the changes that are going on, is loking stately and gracious in this June blossoming. The young leaves on the trees are whispering romantically; her parks are gay with colour and movement; and her buildings, whether down Whitehall or along Piccadilly, assume briefly a faëry form. The whole season is blithely and apace proceeding theatres, dances, dinners, the Opera, the Horse Show, the Royal Tournament, Ranelagh, Hurlingham, Ascot, and all the rest of it. That it will not, cannot last, there is no need to remember. Nor is there any tendency to do so, for as a nation we are, it seems, taking on more and more the continental habit of living for the moment.

By-Elections.

The Liberals appear to be quite hopeful of capturing seats in the by-elections at Eastbourne, Oldham, and Ayr. Most of them are being fought on the anti-Budget issue, but although it is possible that the Free Traders at Oldham might combine to defeat a Government candidate, it is difficult to anticipate a turnover of votes in Scotland and in Southern England. This, moreover, is hardly the weather for elections, and naturally inclines people to the indolence that makes for the repetition of last year's vote. Liberal papers as much as they like may insist on the necessity for reviewing the whole situation, but that is a form of exercise to which as a nation the British are not very prone; besides which, there are on these sunny days and moon-lit nights so many more interesting things to do. No; if Liberalism could make no headway in the gloomy months of 1924, it is likely to slip still further back in the optimistic splendour of 1925.

It is scarcely encouraging to find that the Maclean Committee, which was appointed just after the General Election to inquire into the reorganisation of the Liberal Party, has been wound up and has decided that it is the discreetest thing not to issue a report. It certainly did issue an interim report, which resulted in the formation of the Fighting Fund and of the Vivian Phillips Organisation Sub-Committee, but it states curiously that any further report might embarrass the committees which are now functioning. The assumption that the people of this country may be tiring of "Liberal" principles does not seem to have occurred to this now extinct Committee.

Broadcasting and the Stage.

The long dispute between the British Broadcasting Company and the stage and concert world has at last been settled, the chief condition being that no "first nights" shall be broadcast. One is very glad to see a settlement, because the dispute was, I believe, doing a good deal of harm to theatrical and concert managers. Certainly an improvement in the "wireless" programmes had been noticeable. The broadcasting people are wisely extending their field of subjects, and it would have been a great pity if, together with this widening of scope, the quality of their dramatic and musical transmissions could not have been maintained.

Wembley.

If the British Empire Exhibition is run again in 1926 most people will be greatly surprised. Already one of the main "improvements"—the Tuesday half-crown day—has been abolished, and the extreme suggestion has been made, as an indication of the despair of exhibitors, that an experiment should be indulged of reducing the charge to sixpence on Thursdays and Saturdays.

It may be, of course, that things will brighten up in the better weather, and one hopes that they will, but at present most signs point to the failure of 1925. The tendency of most observers appears to be to blame certain details of organisation, but the number who think that the whole Imperial idea was impertinent to this generation is increasing. The splendour and wealth of the colonies as a loophole to those who are suffering the miserable conditions at home is an idea which might have, but has not, caught on in England. More and more the Exhibition is tending to be an entertainment and the advertisement rather of definite wares than of imperial possibilities.

The Labour Alliance.

Despite the somewhat frantic endeavours of Mr. A. J. Cook and the advice of most disinterested sympathisers, the new Labour Alliance of all the big Trade Unions is not yet a reality. The truth appears to be that there is between the big unions, for instance, between the miners and the railwaymen, too much jealousy to make common action and motives at all possible. The trade unions are in fact reflecting what can be seen in the larger, if less important, world of politics: the tendency to isolation, and the shrinking from dreams of a universal and greater brotherhood. It is, of course, the swing of the pendulum, and in another decade we may well find the big unions once more united. But for the present the uneasy capitalist may breathe more freely.

Chelsea's Art Centre.

Chelsea has gone collectivist. This place, with its hundreds of little coteries of artistic Socialism, has formed a huge Club, at the New Chenil Galleries, wherein artistic and social relations may be discussed. Whether such an institution will tend to the production of better art is an open question.

Of the merits of the inaugural exhibition of these galleries, there can, however, at least from an outside point of view, be no question. The standard of exhibits, from the sculpture, which includes work of Epstein and Derwent Wood, and some of the fashionable Cheyne ware of Miss Gwendolyn Parnell, to the oils, including some Orpens, Johns, Steers, and notably, a beautiful Padwick, the water-colours, including a couple of very vigorous Sargents, and the etchings, is really very high. If this is maintained, King's Road will be a serious rival to Piccadilly.

There are a few works which may be supposed to be of peculiar interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST. First, there is a problematical Orpen, called "And Corn shall grow in the Desert." It is painted in precisely the fashion of his Academy picture, "Man and Beast." Round a tiny seed in barren ground are gathered a strange motley of men, with faces intent on the growth of the sprouting. They do not belong noticeably to any race; otherwise one might place Orpen's desert in a particular spot of the East, where men think, or used to think, that things will grow by being watched.

Mr. T. C. Dugdale's "Field Forge in a Jordan Valley" is a swift, virile representation of Anzacs at work shoeing a horse when on the historic Allenby advance. It is a brilliant improvisation.

Mr. John Revel has two fascinating works in "The

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Arab Theatre, Baghdad" and "By the Waters of Babylon." It is pleasing to find an artist at last painting something that is not one of the "sights" of Iraq: his interior of the theatre gives more than a glimpse into the nature of a people who appear to lack nothing in freedom. Here you may see the painted, Jewish women at dance, at cymbal playing, and smoking—a very fine and suggestive work. His other picture, showing Arab women with pitchers of water, is also excellent.

Mr. Henry Bishop's "The Harbour, Rabat," is an extremely well-mannered production. The blueness of the sea and the compactness of the tower are most slickly drawn.

Among the dry-points one notes with pleasure the very delicate and subtle "Loading Dates, Tigris," by Mr. C. W. Cain, and an imaginative Arabian Nights sort of picture—"The Morning Ride," by Mr. E. J. Detmold. It belongs to that fantastic work, with the prancing horses, the monkeys, the peacocks, the mosques—in fine all the splendour of the earlier Caliphates—of which Mr. Detmold is a recognised master.

ALTER EGO.

BOSNIAN BOYS' CARPENTRY.

The twenty-sixth exhibition of the Ridley Art Club, at the R.B.A. Galleries, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, contains some very fascinating examples of the work being done by young Yugoslavs at Miss Dickinson's Carpentry School in Bosnia. Naturally, most of the exhibits have to be in miniature, but enough can be seen to show what masters of joinery these young Slavs are, and also to see how they, like all Slav people, delight in colouring their household utensils. Such things as chairs, trays, mirrors, boxes, are exhibited, practically all of them being adorned, in an attractively naïf way, with bright colours. It is interesting to notice that some of the boxes—quite exquisitely finished, by the way—appear to be made out of a wood which is much favoured by Mestrovitch, the Serbian sculptor.

It is understood that Miss Dickinson wishes to popularise in England the work of her Bosnian boys, and certainly, should the question of transport once be solved, that work ought to find a market here, where the fashion for coloured furniture is cultivated to a considerable extent. Some of the wood from Yugoslavia appears, at least to the inexpert eye, to be of considerably better quality than that commonly used here.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

From the Birthday Honours which may interest readers of THE NEAR EAST, we choose the following:—

Knights.

James Berry, B.S., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital. Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. Chief authority on goitre in this country.

G.C.M.G.

Sir William George Tyrrell, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., Permanent Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.

K.C.M.G.

Sir Henry Robert Conway Dobbs, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Iraq.

Colonel Gerald Henry Summers, C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Somaliland Protectorate.

Sir Alexander Wood Renton, K.C., formerly Chief Justice of the Island of Ceylon; Chairman, Compensation (Ireland) Commission.

Sir Percy Lyham Loraine, Bart., C.M.G., His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to his Majesty the Shah of Persia.

C.M.G.

Arthur Andrew Morrison, M.D., C.M., British Delegate on the International Maritime Sanitary and Quarantine Board of Egypt.

Godfrey Thomas Havard, Oriental Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Teheran.

Honorary C.M.G.

Raja Chulan ibni Sultan Abdullah the Raja-di-Hilir of Perak, Federated Malay States; Khan Bahadur Sayed Hussain bin Hamid al Mehdar, Chief Minister of the Kaiti Sultan of Mokalla, Aden Protectorate.

G.B.E. (Civil).

Sir Hugh Charles Clifford, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, Governor and Commander-in-Chief designate of the Island of Ceylon.

C.B.E. (Military).

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel (Temporary Col.-Commandant) Herbert Thomas Dobbin, D.S.O. (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) Commandant, Iraq Levies.

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Charles Reginald Barke, T.D. (5th Batt., North Staffordshire Regiment, Territorial Army), Commanding 3rd Battalion, Iraq Levies.

M.B.E. (Military).

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Cyril Harvey Gowan, M.C. (13th-18th Hussars), Cavalry Instructor, Iraq Army.

Lieutenant (local Major) James Malcolm Leslie Renton (Rifle Brigade), Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Iraq Levies.

Lieutenant (local Major) Francis William Hall, Regular Army Reserve of Officers, General List, Ordnance Officer, Iraq Levies.

Lieutenant Philip Taylor Baddiley, Regular Army Reserve of Officers, General List, 3rd Battalion, Iraq Levies.

K.B.E. (Military).

Major-General George Norton Cory, C.B., D.S.O., Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters, India.

Air Vice-Marshal John Frederick Andrews Higgins, C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., Royal Air Force. Has commanded the Forces in Iraq since 1924.

K.B.E. (Civil).

Andrew Ryan, C.M.G., His Majesty's Consul-General at Rabat, Morocco.

Frederick Thomas Hopkinson, M.Inst.C.E. For services in connection with the Nile Dam, Sudan.

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The sixtieth annual general meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund will be held on June 17, at 4 p.m., at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, W.1. Dr. H. R. Hall will preside, and the Right Rev. Bishop Gore and Professor Elihu Grant will be among the speakers.

"THE ISLES OF GREECE."

Under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League, Sir Arthur Shipley will, on June 16, at 5.30 p.m., at University College, Gower Street, deliver a public lecture upon "The Isles of Greece," based upon a recent cruise in the Ægean Sea. The lecture, which will be illustrated with lantern slides, will be presided over by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir T. E. Scott, who has handed over the Aden Command to Maj.-Gen. J. H. K. Stewart, has been placed on the unemployed list. The new commander has been given two months' leave before settling into his new duties.

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The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.

Sofia, May 27.

A Public Execution.

This morning at eight o'clock, Marco Friedmann, the Sacristan Zadgorsky, and George Koeff, were hanged in the presence of some thirty to forty thousand people. Having been condemned under the "Bandits Law" they were due to be publicly executed, and the site chosen was a big expanse of marshy ground on the outskirts of Sofia. Extensive precautions were taken in case any hostile demonstrations should be made, and large forces of soldiers and policemen separated the crowd from the condemned men. Friedmann and Zadgorsky showed the utmost composure, but Koeff appeared to be on the verge of hysterics. After the act of accusation had been read out, the prosecutor asked the three condemned men whether they had anything else to say. Zadgorsky admitted his guilt; Friedmann said that he would die as a Communist plotter, but maintained his previous statement, namely, that he had nothing to do with the Cathedral outrage. Koeff, who is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, protested his innocence up to the last moment.

Three gypsies acted as the hangmen, and all was over in four minutes. It is believed that this is only the second occasion on which a public execution has taken place in Sofia, and it is significant that approximately one sixth of the total population of the capital witnessed it.

The Second Court Martial.

After Friedmann, Zadgorsky, and other Cathedral conspirators the trial was held of an Agrarian Pertchemlieff, Mme. Nicolova and her son George Mallet, and Eugène Leger and his wife. They are accused of having hidden various Communists, notably Yankoff, Minkoff, and Friedmann. Mme. Nicolova is a French woman married to a Bulgarian who died several years ago. Leger is a Frenchman and his wife is Swiss. He was employed in a French Tobacco Company.

This trial has excited much interest, partly on account of the foreign nationality of three of the accused, and partly because two women are implicated. The prosecution alleged that both the Legers and Mme. Nicolova knew they were sheltering Communist conspirators. The hearing of the case lasted nearly a fortnight, and all the accused pleaded not guilty. It became, however, fairly evident that Mme. Nicolova was greatly compromised as she had nursed Friedmann after he was wounded in a shooting affray with the police, and had taken care that the other occupants of the house were unaware of her action. The evidence against the Legers was not so definite, but it was stated that after being arrested Leger told a detective that when Minkoff and Yankoff first entered his house they showed him weapons and warned him that it would be inadvisable to denounce them. In addition, they paid him a high rent and when they left placed a sum of 30,000 levas on the table along with a piece of cardboard telling Leger that a man, provided with a similar piece of cardboard would call for this money. Such behaviour is, to say the least of it, peculiar, but Leger did not inform the authorities. Finally, on the day of the Cathedral outrage they advised Leger to keep away from General Georghieff's funeral, whilst they themselves left the house shortly afterwards.

The prosecution demanded capital punishment for Mme. Nicolova, Leger, and Pertchemlief; capital punishment with attenuating circumstances for Mme. Leger, and a few years' imprisonment for Mallet. The Court Martial inflicted these sentences, although Mme. Leger was only given life imprisonment with hard labour, and Mallet eighteen months' imprisonment. It now remains to be seen whether France will lodge a protest gainst the severity of the sentences passed on her nationals. It is believed that some kind of diplomatic *démarche* is sure to be made, but public opinion in Bulgaria will be disturbed if foreigners' sentences are commuted and Bulgarians' are not.

The Question of the Army.

During April the Allied Conference of Ambassadors authorised Bulgaria to enrol temporarily 13,000 extra soldiers until the end of May. On May 21 the Bulgarian Government addressed a note to the Allied Military Authorities pointing out that the situation did not permit of all the 13,000 being dismissed on May 31. The Government agreed to disband 3,000 immediately, but asked permision to maintain 10,000 for a longer period. At the same time the Government promised to disband 10,000 by the end of May if the Allies refused their request.

A reply is expected from Paris during the course of the next few days, but it is believed that the Allies will refuse. Their grounds will probably be that the situation does not necessitate a prolongation of the period fixed. The Allies have, of course, every opportunity to inform themselves of the internal situation, and once again it can only be hoped that their optimism will be justified. It is necessary, however, to add that their responsibility will be great if further trouble occurs after May 31. But this does not seem to worry them very much.

The French Minister.

M. Emile Darde, the new French Minister, has presented his Letters of Credence to King Boris.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, May 19.

Opening of Parliament.

Rumour is busy over the opening of Parliament, which has several times been unofficially announced as imminent, but is now expected to be postponed until the autumn. The onset of the hot weather, the fact that the future of the Mosul Vilayet is still in the balance, and the naming in the Constitution of November as the appointed annual time for the opening of the Assembly, are all arguments in favour of postponement; on the other hand, a large body of opinion is anxious for the original plan to stand. No official statement has been made on the subject and, as one vernacular paper remarks, "Only God knows the truth of it." As it is announced that the report of the Boundary Commission, which was to have been presented to the League of Nations on June 8, will not be ready on

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals, communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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that date, further delays in reaching a final settlement may be anticipated.

The Cabinet.

Last week's Cabinet crisis passed without an open split in the Government, though differences of opinion between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, himself Prime Minister of a former Cabinet, were acute, and are said to be even yet not altogether settled.

Basrah.

The Basrah Chamber of Agriculture, instituted a few months ago, is complaining bitterly that its efforts to improve local conditions are not supported by the authorities in Baghdad. The silt-clearance of certain main creeks of the Shatt al Arab was decided upon as a measure of immediate importance, and Baghdad was appealed to for financial assistance, the garden owners being willing to bear part of the cost in order to save their dates. Since then, say the aggrieved Basrawis, the matter has remained "under the consideration" of the Ministry of Communications and Works. It is the sad truth that this and many other matters must so rest, until such time as the Government of Iraq has recovered from its present penury.

Archæological Researches.

The British archæologists at Ur, Kish and Kirkuk, have ended their digging season and left Iraq for the hot weather. A very interesting find has rewarded Professor Chieira at Kirkuk. He has unearthed remains of a town of the pre-Assyrian period, the actual date of which cannot yet be settled. The one house to which most of the investigations were confined revealed a surprising level of civilisation; a bathroom with drainage system and water pipes was discovered. A large number of tablets of great value in throwing light on this period were only found by Professor Chieira on the last day of the "dig." A point of particular interest to the lay mind is the fact that several remains suggestive of Roman work were found, raising the question of how far this ancient civilisation, which flourished long before the building of Rome, may have influenced her development.

General.

The suggested appointment of an Iraqi to look after the interests of his Government in London is causing a good deal of discussion here. Ja'far Pasha al Askari, Prime Minister at the time of the Treaty, is generally considered the man for the post, but certain sections of the local Press denounce the idea as unnecessary and expensive, so long as a High Commissioner is in Baghdad to guard Iraq's foreign interests.

Al Istaqlal, Baghdad's most vehement nationalist newspaper, has again been suspended by the Council of Ministers, this time for hostile references to Great Britain. Another hopeful sign of the times is the fact that the "Hisb al Nahdah," an exclusively Shiah political organisation, has so far swallowed its religious prejudices as to elect a Christian member.

The reigning Sheikh of Bahrain has just passed through Baghdad on his way to Europe via Syria and Egypt. Another recent visitor was Aziz Ali Pasha al Masri, who before the War was a leader of Arab nationalism, promoter of many secret societies and political organisations hostile to the Turks.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia, May 26.

A Weekly Mail Service.

Gratification has been caused by the announcement that from June 1, till the end of September, there will be a weekly mail service of steamers from Egypt. Large numbers of visitors especially from that country come to spend the hot season in the mountains of Cyprus, particularly on Mount Troödos. Anything less than a weekly mail causes much inconvenience. Moreover, large quantities of fruit, including grapes, and other perishable goods, are shipped during the summer months. It is hoped that when the present regular mail contract expires, which will be shortly, the Government will see its way to the re-establishment of a weekly mail, which was interrupted during and since the War by the present retrograde trimonthly service, which is most unpopular.

The Silk Industry.

It appears that after all there are hopes of an early forward movement in sericulture. Mr. Breton, of the firm of Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson and Co., arrived in Cyprus on May 18, and is said to be looking for an appropriate site for the construction of a factory. Work could not, of course, begin this year, but it is satisfactory to know that there are now good hopes of a development of the silk industry, for which Cyprus is so eminently adapted.

Population of Cyprus.

It may be well to inform readers regarding the island's population, the sparseness of which is one of the causes of the slow rate of progress. At the end of December 1924, the total island population was 326,245, the town inhabitants—in the six towns of the administrative divisions—being 58,635, and the remainder in villages. The births in 1924 were 8,926 (27.3 per 1,000), and the deaths 5,703 (17.4 per 1,000). There is a decrease in infant mortality. The increase is fairly satisfactory, but the population is far too small. There is, moreover, a continual drain caused by emigration to other countries. With regard to public health, there is no doubt that it has vastly improved since the British occupation. The draining of marshes, the planting of trees, and the many activities of the Government Medical Department, including campaigns against mosquitoes, have done a very great deal, while the habits of the rural population have in many respects changed for the better.

General News.

Sir Malcolm Stevenson, the Governor, is leaving for three months, and it is hoped that conferences at the Colonial Office will lead to fresh decisions favourable to the island. Rumour has it that further privileges are to be granted to Cyprus, in the direction of self-government. Mr. Fenn will act during the Governor's absence, having recently returned. Mr. J. M. Ellis will continue to act as Colonial Secretary. Sir Sidney Nettleton, Chief Justice, will proceed on leave in July.

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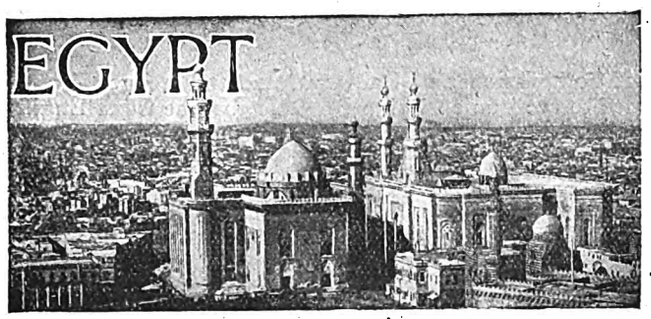

Cairo, May 30.

The Sirdar Murder Trial.

Although the retirement of Lord Allenby and the appointment of Sir George Lloyd are still a subject of comment and discussion, the main topic of interest this week has been the trial of the nine men accused of the murder of the Sirdar.

The very interesting evidence given by Dr. Sydney Smith, the medico-legal expert, and the able indictment of Taha Pasha Nur, the Procureur-Général, between them proved most conclusively the guilt of the accused, the only doubtful case being that of the chauffeur, who seems to have acted more through stupidity and fear than any real criminal instinct. Dr. Smith produced a vice and a file, that had been found in the house of one of the accused, and showed how quickly and easily bullets could be converted into dum-dum, like those with which the Sirdar and his Aide-de-camp were shot. He said that, under microscopic and chemical examination this vice and file had shown traces of copper, zinc, and nickel particles such as would result from the filing of a bullet, and that in his opinion it was quite possible that these instruments had been used for the bullets fired in the crime. Dr. Smith showed that the bullets found on the two students caught escaping to Tripoli were filed in exactly the same way as those with which the Sirdar and the others had been wounded, and, by certain peculiar markings made on the cartridge cases found on the scene of the crime and on bullets extracted from the victims, that the revolvers found on those students were the ones used on that occasion.

The Procureur-Général's able indictment, together with the tableau which the accused presented in the dock, revealed the extent to which minds like those of Shafik Mansur and Mahmud Ismail can dominate and influence ignorant and weaker-charactered people like their companions in the dock. That these latter are equally guilty and must suffer the penalty of their acts there is no doubt, but there is equally no doubt that throughout the villains in the piece have been Shafik Mansur, the lawyer Deputy whose close connection with political crime dates back before the murder of Butros Pasha Ghali in 1910, and Mahmud Ismail, ex-cadet in the Coastguards, whose antecedents reveal that he has just as confirmed criminal instincts. Without the inspiration, encouragement, and help of these master-minds in crime, the others would in all probability not have engaged in such foul deeds.

The interesting feature about the story which the Procureur-Général unfolded was the revelation of the part which most of the accused had played in the previous outrages. Once this case is ended, one may confidently expect it to be followed by another in which those responsible for all the past outrages committed against both British and leading Egyptians will be brought to trial.

One of the great complaints about previous political murder trials has been that it was always only the actual assassins who were being punished. Never, except in the case of Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, have those been arraigned from whom everyone felt certain the inspiration for these crimes had come. This time, however, from what has transpired in this case, the authorities are well on the track of the most important individuals who organised and originated these outrages but took care to keep behind the scenes.

From the fact that Ahmed Effendi Maher, Wafdist Minister of Education, and Mahmud Eff. El Nokrashi, Wafdist Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, have been arrested, it is clear that the responsibility goes, as one always thought it did, very high up, and that the Wafd will by no means escape its share when results are made public of the further investigation which is being carried on parallel with the present trial.

Even as far as the investigation has gone it reflects the highest credit on the officials of the Parquet, Public Security, and Police, who in spite of constant discouragement from outside and successive obstacles from within have adhered to their task. The police-work has certainly been admirable, and it is exceedingly fortunate that Egypt should have had as Procureur-Général a man of the integrity and determination and resourcefulness of Taha Pasha Nur. In this latter connection is there not a touch of irony about the fact that Taha Pasha, who has been so instrumental in bringing home responsibility to the Wafd was himself appointed to his post by Zaghloul Pasha as a sort of consolation for putting over his head to posts to which Taha Pasha had the right of promotion, juniors who were the Wafdist leader's *protégés?*

Lord Allenby's Farewell.

There is a remarkable unanimity of feeling that the departure of Lord Allenby should be made the occasion of a demonstration of the esteem and affection in which he is held by all communities. During the past week there has been a series of official parties at the Residency, and from to-day onwards there will be a succession of entertainments in his honour by the British and Egyptian communities. These celebrations open to-night with a banquet given by the Prime Minister, Ziwar Pasha, at the Continental-Savoy Hotel, to which the leading Egyptians and British residents have been invited and, as far as has been arranged at present, end on June 9 with a dinner and a reception at the Gezira Sporting Club given by the British community, followed next evening by an informal house dinner at the Turf Club, of which Lord Allenby is President. What between these entertainments and the letters of sympathy and regret which he has received from all parts and from all official bodies, including the British Chamber of Commerce, the Council of the British Community in Alexandria, and the British Union, Lord Allenby can surely have no doubts as to the place which his personality has won for him in the hearts of all in Egypt.

Empire Day.

Empire Day was celebrated in Alexandria by a reception at the Sporting Club, followed by children's sports. Mr. Harry Barker, Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Barker acted as host and hostess, and as usual the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby came down from Cairo for the event. There was a record attendance due no doubt to the fact that this was to be Lord Allenby's farewell meeting with the British community at Alexandria, and the entire proceedings proved a splendid success.

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Indian Affairs.

CURRENT TOPICS.

New Harbours.

Two important new harbours are in process of formation in India, at Vizagapatam and Cochin. Work on the former has been in progress for some time past: and the Madras Government's scheme for the latter, elaborated in consultation with their harbour engineer and the Governments of the States of Cochin and Travancore, has now been approved by the Government of India who, it is stated, have agreed to assist the local Government in financing the scheme. At present, on the East Coast of India, there is no harbour between Calcutta and Madras, a distance of about 950 miles: Vizagapatam is about 550 miles south of Calcutta and about 400 miles north of Madras and, when the harbour is finished and connected by rail with Raipur on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, it will serve an important "hinterland," including the coal fields of Central India. On the West Coast, there is at present no harbour south of Bombay except Goa, in Portuguese India, which is about 275 miles south of Bombay. Cochin is about 425 miles south of Goa and about 350 miles north-west of Colombo. Cochin, which is itself a British possession though its immediate "hinterland" consists of the Indian States of Cochin and Travancore, is connected by rail with the main Madras system. Both Vizagapatam and Cochin are already ports of some importance, which will very greatly increase with the provision of harbour facilities.

Obituary.

The death, at the age of 88, of Sir Steuart Bayley, took place on June 3. Among the many important posts that he filled were those of Chief Commissioner of Assam, Resident at Hyderabad, Home Member of the Governor-General's Council, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Political Secretary at the India Office, and Member of the Secretary of State's Council. To quote *The Times* memoir, his death removes "the most eminent survivor of the Indian civilians who were trained at Haileybury and went out to India before the Mutiny."

The Maharaja Scindia died in Paris on June 5, after an operation following on a long illness, aged 48. He was an honorary Lieutenant-General, honorary Colonel of the First Lancers (Skinner's Horse), and served personally in China in 1900. Owing to ill-health, he was unable to serve personally in the Great War, but his troops served with distinction in Egypt, Palestine, East Africa and on the North West Frontier of India, and his Transport Corps distinguished themselves in France as they had done in the Chitral and Tirah Expeditions of the nineties. Scindia was a "21 gun" Prince, A.D.C. to the King, and Grand Cross of the Star of India, Victorian Order and British Empire.

Birthday Honours.

Among the large number of officials whose names appear in the Birthday Honours list, it is pleasant to record the knighthood bestowed on Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, Chief Commissioner of Railways, and the recognition accorded to the Punjab Irrigation Officers—the Chief Engineer, Mr. W. P. Sangster, receiving the C.S.I., and Mr. R. P. Hadow, Superintending Engineer, the C.I.E. Among the honours bestowed upon non-officials, the following are specially noteworthy: Knighthood, Mr. L. S. Hudson, President of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Mr. H. W. Carr, President, European Association, Bengal, Mr. D'A. Lindsay, one of the elected Bengal Members of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. V. A. Dabholkar, Member of the Bombay Legislative Council: C.I.E., Lieut.-Colonel W. D. Smiles, Member of the Assam Legislative Council and General Manager of the Moran Tea Estate, Mr. O. de Glanville, Governing Director of the *Rangoon Daily News*, Khan Bahadur Nawabzada S. A. Ahmad, Member of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council and Vice President of the Provincial Haj Committee: O.B.E., Mr. E. S. Murray, Manager of the Aden firm of Messrs. Luke Thomas and Co., Bombay, Mr. F. Wood, Managing Director, Messrs. Foucar and Co., Burma.

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THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indian Stores Department.

Commenting on the Report of the Director-General, Indian Stores Department, *Commerce* (Calcutta) says that on the activity of this Department depends, to a great extent, the gradual development of India's nascent industries. Except the Army and Public Works, the central Departments were reluctant to utilise the services of the Indian Stores Department; but local administrations showed a willingness to benefit by them. During 1923-24 the Indian Stores Department was able to make a commencement in the purchase of engineering stores and to bring about improvements in the organisation of its inspection, testing and analytical work. Substantial progress was made in the direction of ascertaining indigenous sources of supply and in placing indenting departments in touch with Indian manufacturers and importers, whereby a definite advance has been made towards the goal that the Government of India have set before themselves in their stores purchase policy; while the order authorising the purchase in India, from branches and agencies of foreign manufacturers established in the country, of engineering plant, machinery, and component parts, whether stocks are held in the country or not, has enabled the Department to purchase in India, at economical prices, a considerable quantity of machinery that it would otherwise have been necessary to indent for from England. The question of the adoption of a system of purchase on the basis of rupee tenders is one of great importance, which needs most careful and exhaustive consideration: it is one which, if accepted by the Government of India, will have a profound effect upon the scope and character of the Stores Department.

Political Puerilities.

The *Pioneer* says that extremist politics in India have invariably been tinged with puerility and Mr. Das' recent pronouncements show that this characteristic still persists. Mr. Das, it now appears, is prepared to treat on equal terms with the British Empire after certain demands, that he has formulated, have been conceded. This magnanimous attitude has created a profound effect on those curious people who are always profoundly affected by incidents of the kind. A little earlier, Mr. Das' announcement that he did not approve of crime was received with a species of epileptic ecstasy. Mr. Das has now had the effrontery to assert that it is the violence of Government that has helped the revolutionary movement, and announced, with fine impartiality, "I condemn the violence of Government—for repression is the most violent form of violence—just as strongly as I condemn violence as a method of gaining political liberty." Meanwhile Mr. Gandhi, though he has ceased from naming dates on which Swaraj will come into operation, continues to pin his faith to the spinning wheel as a sure means of securing Swaraj. A few years ago, he wrote "India's salvation

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consists in unlearning what she has learned during the past fifty years. The railways, telegraphs, hospitals, lawyers, doctors all must go, and the so-called upper classes must learn to live the simple peasant life that gives true happiness." More recently he asserted that "we are entirely ready to take up the whole control of the Army, which practically means disbanding three-fourths of it." As for the Frontier danger, "I would introduce the spinning-wheel among the Afghan tribes and thus prevent them from attacking Indian territories. I feel that the tribesmen are, in their way, God-fearing people."

Gurdwara Reform.

The "Sikh Gurdwara and Shrines Bill" was introduced in the Punjab Legislative Council on May 7, and met with a sympathetic reception, including a hearty official welcome of this attempt to bring about a final settlement of the long drawn out Akali trouble. The Bill has been referred to a Select Committe. One of the chief difficulties that awaits settlement is that of the treatment of minorities; for, though the Akali view represents that of the majority of Sikhs, there are a number of other Sikh sects who object to it altogether. The Punjab Chief Secretary, speaking on the Bill, pleaded for tolerance; but there are signs that the central Akali body remains truculent. The *Bombay Chronicle* has a leading article on the Bill which provides an instructive commentary, no less on the probability of the victory of a tolerant spirit than on the kind of criticism that Government and its officials receive in India nowadays. Under the heading "Six Years of Blundering," the paper expresses the hope that the Bill foreshadows the end of the "pitiless persecution" of the Sikhs, which began in "intimidation," continued in "an accursed campaign of assault and torture," and concluded by "resort to mercenary propaganda." In the first stage, we are told that "the pile of their violent deeds began to nauseate officials, but the system of soulless arrogance held together": then followed a "nightmare of bullying, oppression, and insidious suborning," but "the gruesome futility of coward measures" against a community that had non-violently suffered "the bestial assaults of pigmies" soon became apparent. Dealing with the question of the removal of the "mahants," the existing temple priests whose hereditary rights the Akalis attempted to expropriate by force, while the Government has all along required that, where expropriation was desirable, it should be achieved by recourse to the proper legal process, the paper says that Government's approval of the Bill "indicates a chastened mood. The flag of prestige has been lowered half mast and all corrupt bias towards decrepit mahants has been redressed."

Indian Comic Papers.

The number of vernacular and Anglo-vernacular journals in India is legion; but among them the professedly comic paper is so rare as almost to be non-existent. Unintentional comedy—not infrequently produring serious questions, of portentous length, by earnest members of the Legislative Assembly—is, however, of frequent occurrence. A leading Anglo-vernacular daily, received in this week's mail, prints, for instance, under a large-print heading, "A Simla Sensation," the following report of "police hooliganism in the lower bazar." "Police posses pass daily through the Indian bazar is of small width the posse always goes in two formations and whoever comes in its way is hurled aside without warning. Poor and inarticulate fall almost daily prey to this highhandedness, but encourage by their practice they even laid hand on a respectable member of the sikh community though it was a policeman who is alleged to have shouldered him. A public meeting was at once called and recorded protest against this hooliganism. The public expects that the constables concerned should be dismissed so as to teach a lesson to the other, especially when it so occurred that almost two days after the occurrence another police posse hurled aside a coolie who fell on a Rai Sahib."

The Haj.

Pilgrim ships were to have left Bombay for the port of Rabagh on May 15, 22, and 27, and at the beginning of June. Ibn Saud's agent at Aden has, however, announced that Rabagh is not at present ready for the reception of pilgrims and that Kunfida and Lith are more suitable destinations. The Senior Naval Officer, Red Sea, is of opinion that navigation to these two ports is dangerous, owing to the presence of coral reefs, and that pilgrim ships should not attempt it. The British Consul at Jeddah says that the Rabagh-Mecca route lies within the potential area of hostilities between Ibn Saud and King Ali, and that anyone using it is exposed to war risks; while King Ali has notified the Egyptian Government that all three ports are unfit for pilgrim traffic, as his ships "are compelled frequently to bombard them," so that he declines all responsibility for pilgrims who may pass through them. Shaukat Ali wrote to the Bombay shipping companies, saying that he "gladly took the responsibility of advising Moslems to proceed to Rabagh for this year's Haj," and explaining that "for the safety of the pilgrims on the sea we naturally hold you and the British Government responsible, but after safe landing on the shore we fully rely on the assurance of Ibn Saud." He also cabled to Ibn Saud asking him to "arrange boats, temporary huts, water, food, camels, and other necessities": and to King Ali imploring him to "discontinue warfare during the sacred months": and claimed the right to "demand from Government that it should warn the Amir Ali that no pilgrim to the Hejaz is to be molested." Shaukat Ali also announced that he had received a later message from Ibn Saud's agent at Aden saying that, though "everything is available" at Lith and Kunfida, there are no proper facilities at Rabagh. Shaukat Ali has received, from some of his Indian supporters, telegrams of congratulation on "the successful solution of the Haj question" and recommendations that the Moslems of Ceylon, Singapore, Java, and Siam should be informed that Ibn Saud is providing all necessary arrangements, that Indian pilgrims have started for Rabagh and that the latter information should be conveyed to Iraq, Egypt, East and South Africa, so that "being assured of safety by Ibn Saud, they may ask their local Government to provide similar facilities of sea voyage." It is hardly necessary to add, that the Central Khilafat Committee claim the despatch of the pilgrims as a "victory" over an obstructive Government; though it will be interesting to hear what the pilgrims have to say about it, when they return to India.

The North-Western Railway Strike.

There was little change in the strike situation when the last mail left India. Re-engagement of absentees was proceeding and skilled artisans were offering themselves for recuitment in appreciable numbers. On May 8 the number of absentees was 5,500, and the number of recruits over 2,800. On May 11 the Agent reported a slight recrudescence of trouble which, however, appeared likely to be temporary. The strikers' Union managed to arrange a sympathetic strike among the hackney carriage drivers in Lahore, which, though complete and the cause of much inconvenience, only lasted one day. The drivers and rail-

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way strikers held a joint procession to collect funds; but the response was poor and, in the resulting distribution, the drivers received practically nothing, and immediately returned to work. The railway absentees were becoming restless at the continued failure of the leaders to fulfil their promises of strike pay, and objected to continued demands that they should subscribe more money or, in the alternative, accept the blame for their leaders' failure. Faced by this situation, the striking Union was trying to raise a loan to finance a continuance of the strike.

SCINDIA.

The following few personal notes on one whom *The Times* memoir sympathetically describes as "soldier, statesman, sportsman and philanthropist," may be of interest. I first met Scindia in December 1901, when marching through Gwalior to a camp of exercise at Jhansi. As we neared Gwalior, we were met by two riders in ordinary European riding dress, except for their turbans, one of whom introduced himself as Scindia. The regiment halted in Gwalior for two days, during which time the Maharaja proved himself an ideal host to all ranks: when we left, breakfast had been made ready for all of us a few miles along our outward road, including special food for each man of our very mixed regiment—Sikhs, Dogras, Pathans and Punjabi Musulmans—prepared by cooks of their own class. The Maharaja went round on foot, in the dusty road, among the men and personally attended to the comfort of each one of them: and, when we resumed our march, we paid him a compliment that struck us as appropriate, and certainly delighted him—asked him to take the salute as we marched past the Commander-in-Chief of the Gwalior Army—his rank, in the British Army, was Major, in those days. And I last met Scindia, in his own State, over twenty years later, when duty took me via Gwalior to its summer station of Shivpuri (Sipri). I was only there two days, and the Maharaja was very busy, but exerted himself, in his own inimitable manner, to make my visit a success. Besides my introduction to his daughter, Princess Mary, and his son Prince George, who both appeared in their smart State uniforms of khaki, an occasion specially remains in my memory when he took me for a motor drive round Sipri, driving the car himself, without a chauffeur or mechanic in attendance. At one place, in the course of the drive, the motor gave trouble; whereupon he jumped out of the car and successfully put matters right himself. Scindia was my ideal of what an Indian Prince should be—an able administrator, a fine soldier, a tireless worker, an admirable host, a cheery and merry companion, who nevertheless carried himself with perfect dignity when occasion demanded it; it will be long before we, in India, look upon his like again.

C. K.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The following appointments are announced by the War office:—

Colonel A. A. Gibbs, Indian Medical Service, to be Honorary Physician to the King, Indian Military Forces, with effect from September 24, 1924, vice Major-General J. Jackson, C.I.E., M.B., Indian Medical Service, who has retired.

Colonel E. L. Perry, D.S.O., Indian Medical Service, to be Honorary Surgeon to the King, Indian Military Forces, with effect from March 5, 1925, vice Colonel F. Wall, C.M.G., Indian Medical Service, who has retired.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PRIMITIVE BUDDHISM.

"The Sacred Books of the East," Vol. X. Second Edition. (London: Oxford University Press, 10s. 6d. net.)

In the middle of last century there appeared a series of Páli texts under the editorship of Professor F. Max Muller, and it was perhaps his most noteworthy contribution to our knowledge of Indian philosophy. Among them was his own translation of a Páli Buddhistic Canon entitled "The Dhammapad," which has gone through three editions. The Professor's introduction enlarges on the impossibility of rendering the subtleties of oriental thought intelligible to European scholars. "Hence," he wrote:—

Nothing remains but to use terms of more general meaning which at all events are not wrong, and which, though they do not exactly cover the Pali terms, yet include them.

The title itself is open to dispute. Dhammapad, literally "Footstep of Religion," has been translated "Path of Virtue," and "Collection of Texts of the Law." Its date is equally obscure; no fewer than 44 pages of the introduction are devoted to an attempt to fix it even approximately. Max Muller reached the following conclusions by means of a complex inductive process:—Buddha's sayings were rehandled by three Councils, and reduced to writing in Ceylon towards the end of the first century, B.C. A Páli commentary written by Buddhaghosa in the first half of the fifth century of our Era contains parables explaining nearly every verse, which are traditionally believed to have been used by Buddha to illustrate his discourses. It is, therefore, probable that a remnant of the great Teacher's doctrine survives in this Canon, which in any case possesses distinct value in reproducing much of the spirit of primitive Buddhism. The Dhammapad is a collection of aphorisms couched in the quaintest language. Many of them defy the translator's art, but the following specimens are quite intelligible, and breathe a spirit of practical wisdom:—

It is good to tame the mind, which is difficult to hold in and flighty, rushing wherever it listeth; a tamed mind brings happiness: let the wise man guard his thoughts.

The fool who knows his own foolishness is wise at least so far; but a fool who calls himself wise, he is called a fool indeed.

A man who has learnt little grows old like an ox; his flesh grows, but his knowledge does not grow.

Victory breeds hatred, for the conquered is unhappy. He who has given up both victory and defeat, he, the contented, is happy.

The fault of others is easily perceived; a man winnows his neighbour's faults like chaff; but his own he hides, as a cheat hides a false die from the player.

In Part II. of this volume will be found a translation of five Buddhist Canons made by Professor V. Fausböll, whose superior claims as a guide through the mazes of Páli literature is modestly admitted by Max Muller. He wastes no space in attempting to fix their dates, but adduces good reasons for believing them to be of great antiquity. They disclose the earliest germs of a religion which has undergone astounding changes since it was first preached by Buddha. At that epoch two schools of philosophy had come into existence, the Samanas and Bráhmanas engaged in acrid disputations, and had nought but intolerance in common. Although Buddha was a Samana, he rose high above the murky atmosphere of religious controversy, and perceived by intuition many truths which were beyond the ken of ordinary mortals. He was a wandering ascetic who forsook the snares and temptations of a settled life. By eradicating human passions and desires he attained the changeless state of Nirvána. Sin in Buddha's eyes is desire in all its myriad forms, and eternal bliss is won by emancipation from the bonds of physical existence. Such, according to Professor Fausböll, are the essential points of the Buddhist Gospel, and he deserves well of students for having extracted its pure gold from the quartz and scoriæ of Páli literature.

F. H. S.

We understand that Mr. Lowell Thomas's long-expected book, "With Lawrence in Arabia," is being published this week by Messrs. Hutchinson. At this time, when the future of the Arab race is highly problematical, it should prove very useful to have an authoritative account of the resurgence of the Hejazi Arabs under Colonel E. T. Lawrence, whose striking exploits during the War will not soon be forgotten.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

June 11, 1925 (New Style).
May 29, 1925 (Old Style).
Julkaada 19, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 19, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Vedid Bey, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, left London on June 2, for Rome.

The Ranee of Pudukota arrived last week at the Hotel Ritz, Paris.

Admiral Sir Osmond and Lady Brock have arrived in London from the Mediterranean.

Mr. A. Jay, the United States Minister in Bucharest, left Roumania last week for London on leave.

Princess Ileana of Roumania, who came to London recently, is now at Ascot, where she is continuing her studies.

The Dowager Lady Boyle last Thursday entertained at luncheon the Bulgarian Minister in London and several English friends.

Sir Charles and Lady Addis left London last week for Morocco by the P. and O. Naldera. They expect to return bout June 20.

Sir Norman Macleod left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to join the Kaisar-i-Hind at Marseilles for Bombay.

Mlle. Margaret Haji-Mischeff, the daughter of the Bulgarian Minister, returned to 24, Queen's Gate Gardens last Thursday from Brussels.

It is officially announced that Mr. Laurence Barton Grafftey-Smith has been appointed Oriental Secretary to his Majesty's Residency at Cairo.

Mr. William Westland, 80, of Woodthorpe Murtle, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, formerly Secretary to the Bank of Bengal (personal estate in Great Britain) left £27,231.

The Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading returned on June 3, to Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, from visiting Sir Alfred and Lady Mond at Melchet Court, Romsey.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape returned to London on June 2 from Scotland, and left again the following day for Paris, where Lord Inchcape attended the Suez Canal meeting.

Lady Storrs and the Misses Clowes will arrive at 90, Eaton Square from Jerusalem on June 15 for the marriage of Miss Margaret Clowes with Captain Cust, which will take place on July 16 (leave permitting).

The annual dinner of the Gurkha Brigade was held at the Grand Hotel, S.W., last Thursday. Field-Marshal Sir A. A. Barrett presided, and about 90 officers attended the dinner.

The British Indian Union and the Northbrook Society will entertain the Earl and Countess of Reading at luncheon at the Hotel Cecil on June 25, when the president of the Union, the Duke of Connaught, will be in the chair.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The 60th Annual General Meeting

will be held at the ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, BURLINGTON HOUSE, W.1.
on WEDNESDAY, the 17th June, 1925, at 4 p.m.

Dr. H. R. HALL, D.Litt., F.S.A., Chairman of the Executive Committee, will Preside,
AND
The Right Rev. BISHOP GORE, D.D., and Prof. E. GRANT (Hon. Gen. Sec. for the Fund in U.S.A.) will be among the Speakers.

E. W. G. MASTERMAN, Hon. Secretary, 2 Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.1.

Ferid Halid Bey, who has been appointed Turkish Consul at Liverpool, accompanied by Nedgmeddin Bey, Chancellor, left London last Monday for Liverpool to open the Consulate, which was closed during the War.

The will of the late Mr. James Harry Scott, B.A. (50), of Helouan, Egypt, and of Garrison Tower, Wishaw, N.B., advocate, late professor of Law in Khedivial College at Cairo (personal estate in Great Britain) has been proved at £12,342.

Brig.-Gen. Sir Percy Sykes will deliver a lecture on "The Heart of Asia and the Roof of the World," tomorrow afternoon, June 12, at the Royal Society of Arts (Indian Section). The chair will be taken at half-past four o'clock by Lord Lamington.

Miss M. Tyrwhitt-Drake has been appointed Secretary of the Indian Church Aid Association, in place of the Rev. H. P. Kennedy Skipton, and Mr. H. G. Gordon Clinch, late of the Madras Presidency Police, has been appointed organising and travelling secretary.

Among those present at a dance given by Lady Cadman at Westfield, West Hill, Highgate, on June 3, were the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco, the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, Sir Laming and Lady Worthington-Evans, Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, Sir Robert and Lady Waley Cohen, Sir Charles and Lady Greenway, Captain and Mrs. Greenway, Admiral Sir Edmond and Lady Slade, Sir John and Lady Shuckburgh and Major and Mrs. Boyd-Carpenter.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925.

THE BULGARIAN CRISIS.

The liquidation of the Bulgarian crisis is proving a slow process. During the past week it has been found necessary to institute a house-to-house search in Sofia; to this end a military cordon was drawn round the capital, the population was confined indoors, and everyone unable to produce identity cards to the satisfaction of the authorities was detained for further examination. This "combing" of the capital led to over two hundred fresh arrests, and the work of examining the further evidence obtained of Communist plans is now being undertaken. Elsewhere in the country other suspects have fallen into the hands of the authorities, and the Government is so far satisfied with what it has accomplished that various restrictions on the public's liberty of movement in Sofia and on railway travelling have been withdrawn. In Western Europe and particularly among certain sections in Britain there has been much shaking of heads over what is called the Bulgarian Terror. The public executions and the severe sentences on those who have not been condemned to death are cited in support of the contention that Communist excesses have been prompted by Government terrorism. Before judgment is passed on the Zankoff Government and the Bulgarian people it will be as well to bear in mind the actual sequel of events. The trouble began under Stambolisky, who towards the latter part of his régime—however ably he may have directed Bulgaria's foreign policy—abused his power to compass the personal injury, if not ruin, of his political opponents. The *coup d'état* which brought about his downfall was the direct reply of those whom he had previously persecuted. Without doubt the change of régime was accompanied, as so often happens in the Balkans, with grave excesses—the murder of Stambolisky would be a stain on any Government's record—and these in turn were sufficient to prepare the ground for the ultimate supersession of the Zankoff Government by another *coup d'état*. Unfortunately for Bulgaria, in addition to the clash of political factions a Communist undercurrent had been revealed which threatened all parties indifferently with destruction. Stambolisky himself, just before his death, had realised that the enemy of the State was Communism rather than the *bourgeoisie;* but his previous use of Communist support against the latter had caused the Agrarian and Communist movements to be identified by most of his political opponents. To this fact may be attributed the major part of the excesses that accompanied the *coup d'état* of June, 1923, as a result of which the Communist ranks undoubtedly received considerable reinforcement from persecuted Agrarians.

If the Zankoff Government had known how to take advantage of the Communist rising that occurred in the following September, it would have enabled a clear line to be drawn between Agrarians and Communists, to the great advantage of Bulgaria and to the simplification of its own task. The golden opportunity was missed, although the rising had the effect of opening the eyes of Agrarians who had been prepared to enlist Communist support for their own political ends to the danger of encouraging what were purely subversive elements in the State. From this point, however, Communism, whether above ground or under ground, was able to hold its own to the extent required to engineer the plot against King Boris's life and the outrage in the Sveta Nedélia Cathedral. With the perpetration of these two crimes ordinary political differences became no longer in question; the dividing line between Agrarians and Communists had been drawn by the latter themselves, and for the nonce the whole population of Bulgaria stands divided into two camps, Communists and non-Communists. As far as the latter are concerned, it is immaterial from what quarter the former draw their inspiration, whether directly from Moscow or from their own personal belief. They stand convicted as people who do not hesitate to resort to wholesale massacre to serve their own ends, whether these are to be labelled political or personal. Now, life may be held more cheaply in the Balkans than in Western Europe; but wholesale massacre as a political instrument is regarded in the former with the same detestation as in the latter, and the only room for any difference in connexion with it would be that reaction against it might take on a cruder form in a Balkan State. Nothing has happened in Bulgaria since the unnerving outrage in the Cathedral that does not merit condonation in all the special circumstances. In the attempt to stamp out the element which does not shrink from wholesale massacre as a means to its end some persons who would not approve of the Cathedral outrage have been engulfed whereas, if the setting of the drama had been British instead of Bulgarian, they would have fared better. Criticism, however, must take into consideration differences of outlook and in standards as between the Balkans and Great Britain. Had it not been for the spread of Communism in Bulgaria the political controvery between Agrarians and the Bourgeois parties would, without much doubt, have been fought out on less tragic lines. The menace of Communism called forth the instincts of self-preservation and, it may be, the worst features of Balkan quarrels. The Western observer, however, must not imagine that it is an instance of democracy fighting a military despotism or an oligarchy; the Bulgarian democracy is fighting for its own existence against a desperate attempt to overthrow a constitutional State by violent means.

These facts in no way diminish the obligation laid on the Bulgarian Government to bring the crisis to an end in such a way as to cause the least possible injury to Bulgarian institutions. The heinousness of the Cathedral outrage rallied all but the disruptive elements in the State to the side of the Government. Among its present supporters, however, are some who in normal times are its political opponents and may even in the heat of political strife have been regarded as enemies of the State. A real national danger has shown the folly of much that happens in Bulgarian political life, and it becomes the duty of the Ministry to lead the nation forward on sounder political lines. Advantage might well be taken of present conditions to form a Coalition Cabinet on a wider basis, in order that all unnecessary political controversy should be avoided for as long a time as possible and that the country may concentrate its attention on constructive work to which the nation may devote itself with conviction and some measure of unanimity.

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THE UNSCRUPULOUS KAID: A MOROCCAN MEMORY.

By W. A. FOX-STRANGWAYS.

One fine March evening, some years ago, the youthful Consul for Utopia was taking his ease at the Café de l'Univers in the little Moroccan town of Rodagom. Rest after toil: for the day had been, for South Morocco, a particularly strenuous one: the daily mail (as relentless a pursuer as the journal of that name) had brought him, in addition to the usual crop of bills, a curt reminder from some under-strapper at the Ministry for Industry and Commerce regarding his overdue Trade returns, while the matrimonial affairs of such few Utopian subjects as dwelt in out-of-the-way Rodagom had taken a distinct turn for the worse.

Small wonder, then, that Farniente (for such was his patronymic) harboured a distinct, if temporary, grudge against the oppressors of the poor, when he reflected that he had not been able to get away for the morning apéritif much before eleven, by which hour, of course, his greedy colleagues, aided by the staff of the local Contrôle Civile, had scoffed the small supply of ice. . . Also, there was no getting away from the fact that he had been distinctly off his game that afternoon: with the tennis tournament looming in the immediate future, he must watch that second service: only, with Government and even private traders displaying such a ludicrous and unseasonable desire for information, it was difficult to devote the necessary attention to matters of real moment. . .

So when his friend Nat Astrero, a genial Rogadom Jew of Utopian nationality, dropped into the chair opposite, and demanded whisky-and-soda in funereal tones, it looked like being a case of "it never rains but it pours." Urged to "drink it down" and "cough it up," Nat accomplished the rather difficult dual feat by noticeably lowering the level of liquid in his glass and unfolding a tale of woe.

Now Nat had a brother Harry who, like himself, had fought for Utopia during the War, and had been badly shell-shocked in the process. Invalided out of the Army, he had led, ever since, a nomadic life among the surrounding tribes, often remaining away from home for days together, what time he hobnobbed with his Moorish friends, whose customs and language he had so far assimilated that these repeated absences had ceased to arouse misgivings.

On the occasion in question, however, it seemed that Nat had received news—by that strange desert wireless—that all was not well. Harry, who had been delegated by his brother to negotiate a land deal with a tribe living some 40 kilometres distant from the town, had not returned, and certain signs pointed to foul play.

Farniente, therefore, after a few preliminary and incoherent grumblings about "the blighter's blinking independence," succeeded in shaking off his physical and mental torpor sufficiently to permit of his agreeing to accompany Nat on a tour of inspection in the latter's wheezy old Overland "Henrietta." Half-an-hour later they were on their way, loaded down with food, drink, and (for they were old stagers) revolvers.

On arrival at the headquarters of the tribe with whom Harry had been negotiating, they learnt that he and a Moorish companion had, that very afternoon, been unexpectedly surrounded by an armed party despatched by a neighbouring Kaid, and, after exceedingly unceremonious treatment, been carried off as prisoners to the said Kaid's residence, some fifty or sixty kilometres distant. This piece of news, coupled with the unsavoury reputation which this Kaid—whom we will call Ouejji—possessed far and wide, naturally drove the unfortunate Nat half frantic: nor were all the protestations of Farniente to the effect that it was common knowledge that perfect peace, security, and tranquillity prevailed throughout the Protectorate availing: on Farniente calling in the more highly-coloured daily Press as a witness for the defence, the only response he elicited from Nat was composed of words so rude that they were obviously one of the regrettable legacies of a life in the trenches.

"Henrietta" was accordingly set in motion again, after a halt which barely permitted of a bite and something to wash it down, and three or four hours' driving over villainous tracks and in the pitch dark brought the rescue party to the Kaid's residence, a huge square block of buildings in the Moorish style.

After quite an hour's beating on the door and hooting of the horn, a servant appeared, who, not liking the look of the unseasonable visitors, promptly attempted to slam the door in their faces. This manœuvre was easily frustrated by Nat's No. 12 boot, and some melodramatic play was then made with the trusty "guns," which had the effect of bringing on to the scene a very frightened and flustered major-domo, who promptly (and unwisely) denied all knowledge of Harry. A little more or less gentle persuasion, however, remedied this temporary amnesia, and he admitted that Harry *had* been there, but had left the same afternoon for Rodagom. Farniente, recalling the depositions of the tribesmen to the effect that Harry had been some sixty kilometres distant, in the opposite direction, that afternoon, was inclined to discount this statement: but, in the face of Nat's evident desire to return to Rodagom forthwith, and reflecting that intervention with the Protectorate authorities there would now serve the purpose, he held his peace. The important thing, after all, was to let the Kaid know that his little plot had come unstuck, and that, should Harry now "disappear," the responsibility could not fail to be brought home in the right quarter. Used to roughing it, another night under Moorish conditions could not hurt Harry, and might serve as a useful damper on his roving propensities in future.

After declining the Kaid's proffered hospitality (which both adventurers had an idea might prove unhealthy in the circumstances) and uttering some blood-curdling threats as to what would happen, were Harry not to be found at Rodagom, Nat and Farniente again boarded the patient Overland, and made for Rodagom, where they arrived about nine a.m., after an exceedingly cold and disagreeable journey of some two hundred kilometres all told.

Their annoyance, therefore, may be imagined when they learnt, on arrival, that Harry was still a prisoner of the Kaid. This hardly surprised Farniente, but it not unnaturally enraged Nat, who straightway proclaimed his intention of returning immediately and generally strafing the Kaid and his household. Farniente, however, opted for bed, whither, after finally succeeding in convincing Nat that they now had the Kaid "on toast" and that subsequent proceedings could well be left to the Protectorate authorities, he duly proceeded.

Hardly had he "got his head down," when Nat, in a still greater state of agitation, if that were possible, burst into the room with the startling news that Harry was even then entering Rodagom under arrest. Reflecting on the undoubted fact that a Consul's life is not a happy one, Farniente turned out and accompanied Nat to the town gates, only to discover that Harry was safe and sound at home.

The irrepressible Harry, interviewed by his outraged brother and by the sleepy and surly Farniente, gave a rambling and, incidentally, most amusing account of the whole affair, from which the salient fact emerged that, had it not been for the timely news conveyed to Nat and the subsequent midnight jaunt of the search party, Harry's subsequent interest in mundane affairs might easily have been a negligible one. Frightened by the knowledge that his little kidnapping effort had miscarried, the Kaid released Harry within a few moments of the departure of Nat and Farniente, and sent him down to Rodagom under escort, with a long and obviously faked story of how he had been found wandering lost on the hills: the kind Kaid had then, knowing he was "not quite right," fed and lodged him, and sent him on his way, rejoicing. Seeing that, as has been explained above, Harry spent six days out of seven cruising about the countryside on his own, that he spoke the language like a native, and was hail-fellow-well-met with half the tribesmen within a couple of days' journey of Rodagom, it is needless to add that this explanation did *not* find favour with the Protectorate authorities, and that the Kaid Ouejji got a headwashing which is likely to curb his buccanneering tendencies for many a day. With all that, however, it was

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some days before the release of Harry's Moorish companion could be obtained.

Harry's comments on his experience were illuminating, and he appeared quite unable to realise that he had received any rough treatment at all. On being asked whether he had been given anything to eat, he replied cheerfully: "Oh, yes, bread and water." His experiences in the trenches and with Moorish tribesmen had evidently led him to regard prison fare as a luxury. On the same analogy, he saw nothing anomalous in a guest of the Kaid's having to sleep on the floor, in a locked room, with an armed sentry on guard.

Thus a threatened tragedy ended in more or less broad farce, which, however, was thoroughly enjoyed by one person only—the incorrigible Harry. Farniente summed up the situation when he sourly remarked, "If your giddy brother goes on the jag in the Moroccan hinterland again, I shall send in my resignation: he's lost me three good days' practice, and the tournament's coming off next week!"

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.

CYPRUS A COLONY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your review deals very frequently with Cyprus, and for this reason I trust you will be good enough to publish this letter, particularly because my name is associated with the objects of your comment.

In your "Notes of the Week" (issue of May 14,) you attempt to show that the cause of union of Cyprus with Greece is the work of an organisation of "agitators" in which you do me the honour to rank me. We have frequently refuted this affirmation and shown that the people of Cyprus desire nothing more than to see their political aspirations for union fully realised. You may still have some doubts on this matter, and in order to dispel them I would like to remind you that our request for a plebiscite was refused. This recalls Æsop's fable of the Boasting Traveller: "Suppose this to be Rhodes; and now for your leap." If any fears are entertained lest the people in such plebiscite be influenced by my presence, I would be too pleased on such occasion to take tea with you at Wembley.

The Cyprus Government refused to grant me a certificate of British nationality without assigning any reason. I was an Ottoman subject, and in applying for such a certificate I produced documentary evidence from the Hellenic Consulate to the effect that I was not and had never been an Hellenic subject. I am descended from a long line of Cypriot ancestors, from my father's and mother's sides, who were born, lived, and were buried in this Island. I, who have been four times returned by the people as their representative, am deprived of the political rights that are enjoyed by recent settlers. Where is British justice? Indeed, in your "Notes" you write ". . . it would be necessary to know the reasons for the refusal before judgment can be passed on it." But I fear I cannot give you any reasons because none were given to me.

You mention the various Powers that ruled over Cyprus in its long history, and you state "not the least of the curious facts about the island is that it has belonged to them but never to Greece." To my mind the most curious fact is that you omit to mention the Byzantine Empire that possessed Cyprus for over 800 years, and you totally ignore the political, racial, and cultural connections of the Island with the ancient Hellenic City States. But if you want to arrive at the truth, ask us what we are and what we want, and the rocks will be moved and will give you the true answer.

You are always very particular about the fate of the Turkish minority which is the one-fifth of the population. Experience has shown that nowhere has the lot of the Turks been happier than under Greek rule. Here in Cyprus there is nothing which divides us. But it must be a curious principle in political justice to allow such a small minority to determine the fate of the four-fifths of the total population. To what state of facts may the principle of nationalities, in the defence of which you fought for so many years, find better application than in the case which this Island presents? If you are so particular about this minority, those safeguards may be adopted which your sense of charity will find suitable and sufficient.

You compare the population of this island with that of the borough of West Ham or the county of Worcestershire, and with some irony you say that the efforts of the "agitators" lead one to suppose the population to number many millions. Allow me to ask what would you or the population of that borough or county do if they were placed under a foreign rule? Or am I to think that the numerical strength of a country's population is that which entitles it to claim justice?

In concluding, you remark that to reach the happy moment when Cyprus will be handed to Greece it may be necessary to wait until all the present "agitators" are in their graves. If I interpret correctly your remarks, I imagine you would be offering fervent prayers for our longevity. But if this be not so, and we "agitators" constitute a barrier to union, we would be willing on demand to put an end to our existence. In keeping Cyprus, the occupation by the Italians of the Dodecanese is strengthened, the offence to the Greeks is prolonged, and the violation of the principle of nationalities becomes manifest in the eyes of the world. It will injure the prestige of the British Empire towards which we Greeks entertain a profound sense of respect.—I am, etc.,

Limassol, Cyprus, May 26 N. K. LANITIS.

[An invitation to take tea at Wembley has been sent to Dr. Lanitis. ED.]

Lieut.-General Michael Weekes Willoughby, C.S.I., Indian Army (retired), Cheltenham, who died in March, aged 91 years, left unsettled property of the gross value of £16,878, with net personalty £16,645.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*

Cyprus.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a special section devoted to Cyprus, in which the Cyprus Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition is described in detail. Wembley last year was a great adventure for some of the smaller parts of the Empire. It is eminently satisfactory to learn that in the case of Cyprus the results achieved were such that it has been found possible to participate again and on a larger scale, so that whereas a year ago Cyprus shared a habitation, now it stands alone. It is to be hoped that equal good fortune will be its share this year, and then when the Exhibition finally closes it will have meant for Cyprus the opening of Empire markets that have hitherto been unfamiliar with the products of the Island. It is scarcely necessary for me to refer here to the pavilion, but I cannot refrain from saying that on the occasions that I have visited it I was much impressed by the variety of the exhibits. Cyprus struck me as being a most attractive section of the Exhibition, and with such a favourable situation and with the promise of the continuance of the weather that will attract crowds, I shall be greatly surprised if excellent business is not done between now and the close of the Exhibition.

Burmah Oil Company.

I have already referred to the preliminary statement of the Burmah Oil Company, but the full report, which was issued last week, enables a comparison of the results with those of the previous years. The trading profit was £2,493,093, as compared with £2,452,511 for 1923, and £2,428,155 for 1922, and the result is all the more satisfactory since a larger amount has been allocated for depreciation than in 1923. The allocation for depreciation is £378,981 as against £333,237 in 1923. It is noteworthy that the output of crude oil was in advance of the record production of the previous year, and that there was an increased production of practically every one of the company's manufactures for which on the whole satisfactory prices were obtained. The profits for the current year are stated to be satisfactory.

Suez Canal Report.

Very satisfactory results were obtained by the Suez Canal Company in 1924. The gross receipts amounted to 508,584,356 francs, an increase of 89,333,936 francs on the figures for the previous year, while the expenditure showed an increase of 1,685,898 francs at 60,164,893 francs. Deducting the amounts set aside for material and improvements and adding the amount carried forward the amount available for distribution is 377,074,218 francs. Since the commencement of the present year there has been a further increase in the traffic through the Canal, the figures for the first three months showing an increase of 1,166,000 tons on the corresponding figures for 1924. In view of the depressed state of trade at the present time this result is very significant, and suggests very clearly the development of traffic through the Canal that can be looked for as soon as conditions approximate to the normal.

Empire Cotton Growing.

The annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association, extracts from which will be found elsewhere in this issue, takes on an added interest each year as greater progress is made with cotton cultivation within the Empire. The report, it may be noted, speaks of the increase that has taken place in cotton production during the year as very encouraging, and states that the industry is now established on a sound commercial basis in a number of Colonies and Protectorates. Good though the progress has been, it cannot be contended that the present rate of advance is all that is required. An increase in production in seven years from roughly 82,000 bales of 400 lb. to about 350,000 bales is promising, but so far only the spadework has been done, and not until the production is in seven figures will it be possible to regard the position with equanimity. It is interesting to note that in the figures for the production for last year the Sudan's share is relatively small, but that, of course, is simply because the work of development in progress in that region has not yet begun to yield results. The completion of the Makwar Dam this year will enable an extensive new area to be put under cotton, while Kassala region too will soon begin to make an increasing contribution to the Sudan's cotton contribution. In a good many other regions also in the Empire work is being done, the results of which are not visible in the cotton statistics, and it is safe to say that in a few years the cotton production of the Empire will be a really important item in the world's cotton crops.

America and Cotton.

It is apparent that America, on whom we have so foolishly relied for so long for our cotton, does not view our efforts to achieve a position of relative independence with equanimity. While its is doubtless realised on the other side of the Atlantic that the growing uncertainty of the American crop and the tendency to utilise more and more of it in America, thus reducing the margin available for export, left us no choice unless we were prepared to run the risk of having to go short of supplies from time to time, America is evidently going to try to keep the market by producing more cotton. Obviously when the Empire grows cotton on a really large scale the effect is bound to be felt in the United States, for cotton has been one of the country's staple exports over a long period of years.

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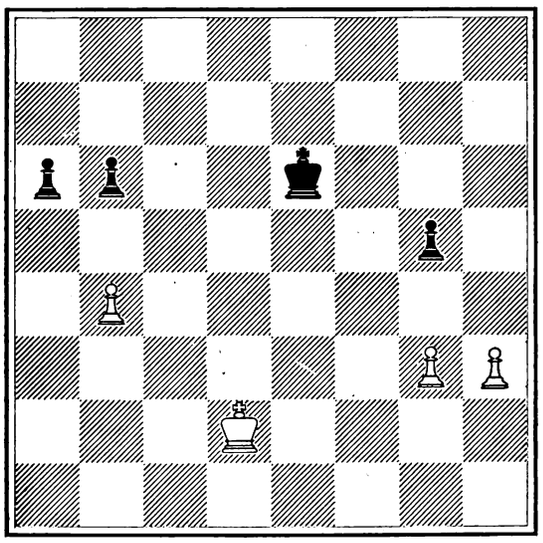
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."

End Game No. 2.



White to play. What result?

Solution to end game No. I.: 1. BxP, Kt—B6 ch; 2 K—Q4 (best), Kt—Q4 and by remaining on the defensive Black can draw. If black plays 2 KtxP, however, he loses, for, as will readily be realised the Kt is pinned in and is ultimately forced to take the Pawn at B5, and that is not quite good enough.

I propose in succeeding issues, when space permits, to give from time to time occasional comments on some of the leading openings and defences with which I am particularly familiar, among them the defence from which I have taken my *nom-de-plume*. The history of that defence is an epitome of the way in which openings rise and fall in popularity. Just before the War, it enjoyed a considerable vogue, then an awkward variation was discovered, and now for the time being it is practically ignored, though every now and then someone resorts to it in the leading tournaments. The chief fault about it is not that it is not safe, but that it gives a very unattractive type of game. But then some players thrive on the uphill type of game. Certain it is that if there were some perfect defence most players would utilise it in preference to facing an endless series of Queen's openings and Ruy Lopezs in both of which cases Black has to struggle for twenty moves or so before even the prospect of getting a look in looms in sight. Personally, I have always been surprised that more people do not resort to the "French Defence." Perhaps they are afraid of the intricate variations that can arise. But the exchange variation for Black ends all unnecessary complications, and gives a perfectly safe game. I played it last season at every opportunity, and can vouch for the fact that it gives admirable results. One not only has safety, which is, of course, the essential for Black, but one also has numerous openings for counter attacks, and I have found it frequently possible to take the initiative at an early stage of the game.

Czecho-Slovakia's exports in April totalled 1,477 million Czech crowns.

The introduction of the new Greek Customs Tariff has been postponed until December 31.

Owing to discontent caused by the non-payment of subsidies by the Persian Government, some of the tribes of Persian Baluchistan have attacked Kkwash, inflicting heavy casualties upon the Persian garrison.

A Reuter message from Bucharest states that the Statistics Department has finished its report on the trade balance for 1924, which is in favour of Roumania by more than one and a half milliard lei. Imports were valued at 26,291,000,000 lei, while exports totalled 27,829,000,000 lei.

Large drainage and irrigation works are about to be undertaken in the Vardar Valley, in Macedonia, by the Greek Government, which is at present considering tenders made for the work.

USE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Modern farm equipment is not used extensively in Yugoslavia, and modern implements are employed chiefly in the Voivodina, Croatia-Slavonia, and Bosnia (says an American Consular report). The agricultural holdings in the other provinces of the Kingdom are divided into many small farms which are generally less than 5 hectares in size. The average equipment of such farms is a small plough, a drag-harrow, and hand tools such as a scythe, flail, and similar tools. The sale of modern agricultural machinery is therefore confined chiefly to the provinces mentioned above.

The sale of agricultural machinery in Yugoslavia has shown considerable improvement since the first of the year over the period preceding. This improvement has been manifest chiefly in the Voivodina, Croatia-Slavonia, and Bosnia. There is a progressive movement in these provinces toward the use of modern implements, but the general lack of ready money prevents many farmers from making purchases. Efforts are being made to encourage the use of modern implements by dealers and by the Hrvastke-Slavonske Gospodarsko Drustivo (Croatian-Slavonian Economic Association).

The domestic manufacture of farming implements is very limited. Small hand implements, such as shovels, spades, hoes, and harrows, are made in a few factories, but most of the agricultural implements are imported. Few tractors are used, owing to the expense of maintenance and the lack of repair facilities.

Tractors are more popular in the Voivodina than in other provinces; sales were good in 1924. There are many farms in the Voivodina region of 100 acres or more in size, and many of them are well equipped with modern implements. There are also several factories in this district, one of which, established in 1875, employs 200 workers and produces ordinary farm tools, power and hand wine presses, grinding machinery, gasoline motors, pumps, and well-drilling machinery. Several other firms manufacture corn planters and shellers, grain seeders, harrows, ploughs, farm wagons, and other farm equipment.

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CYPRUS AT WEMBLEY 1925

THE TRADE AND AGRICULTURE OF CYPRUS.

It is possible that the British Empire Exhibition may prove a turning point in the economic history of Cyprus. Naturally the phrase seems strange in view of the age-long history of the Island, which has been associated with activities in the Mediterranean region since the time of the earliest civilisation there, and was highly developed and had a prosperous trade when our ancestors were still living in the most primitive conditions. But the development of countries in the Near East has been fraught with vicissitudes greater than those of many others, and the factor that brought Cyprus her early commercial success—her situation as a convenient maritime route—has long since disappeared, and instead of being at the centre of things she is now, so to speak, rather in a backwater. This circumstance and the unprogressive influence of long years of Turkish rule are together responsible for the fact that the Island cannot be said so far to have realised its potentialities. It is only in recent years that any real progress has been made in the staple industry of Cyprus—agriculture, and just as is the case elsewhere in the Near East primitive instruments and mediæval methods are still in operation. That is all very well if a country is content to stand still, but prosperity can only accrue to an agricultural region through the fullest use of modern machines and methods. Life generally has quickened up in agriculture as in everything else, and willing or unwilling all must follow in the march of progress. Except in the large towns advancing civilisation has not left any deep mark on Cypriot life. There is electric light, and, of course, the ubiquitous cinema has made its appearance, though some may perhaps argue that that is not an advantage of civilisation. The mental outlook of the people has expanded as compared with 15 to 20 years ago, and decided progress is evident, although many of the old economic conditions and uneconomic practices still exist. The Island needs two things to-day, the intensive development of its varied resources and increasing markets for its produce. The painstaking work of British administrators in endeavouring to bring about improved methods in regard to agriculture, in which may be included reafforestation, has had marked results in the one direction: the Exhibition, it may be hoped, will do much to solve the problem of increased outlets.

Trade figures are a fairly accurate index of a country's progress, and a comparison of the figures for a year before the British Occupation, and typical years just before the Great War make interesting reading. For 1863 the exports were valued at £325,000 while the imports were put at £199,000. The respective figures for 1909 were £520,817 and £607,906, while for 1911 the figures were £702,803 and £635,427. These figures show that while the trend has been in the right direction, the improvement has not been sufficiently pronounced. For obvious reasons it is impossible to carry on the comparison with the post-War figures: these statistics which must be read by themselves show from 1921 onwards a tendency for exports to increase, while imports after reaching their highest point in 1920 have sharply declined.

	Exports.		Imports.
1921	£917,609	...	£1,449,247
1924	£1,231,703	...	£1,243'356

It will be seen from these figures that the adverse trade balance which was considerable in 1921 fell to negligible proportions last year, and as the results of the Island's participation in the Exhibition last year have not yet had time to tell it may be taken for granted that the figures for ensuing years will show increasingly favourable results. The main object of the Exhibition is, of course, to promote trade between the various parts of the Empire, and the figures of the Island show that in the past Cyprus has not been able to take advantage of the Empire markets. The following table is illustrative of the position:—

	Total Exports.	Exports to U.K. and other parts of the Empire.	Total Imports.	Imports from U.K. and other parts of the Empire.
19'1	£702,803	£170,520	£635,427	£147,574
1924	£1,231,703	£309,491	£1,243,356	£516,316

In short, about 25 per cent of Cypriot produce has been exported to markets within the Empire, while Cyprus last year obtained about 40 per cent. of her requirements within the Empire. The bulk of the Empire trade

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is, of course, with the United Kingdom. The following are the figures for 1924:—

Exports.		Imports.	
To U.K.	Other parts of Empire.	From U.K.	Other parts of Empire.
£297,476	£12,015	£315,831	200,485

It is clear that there is room here for great improvement. The staple exports of Cyprus are commodities which can readily be absorbed in the Empire markets, while it is quite certain that Cyprus should obtain her requirements to an increasing extent from within the Empire. In 1924 Egypt took produce from Cyprus to the value of £249,000, while other leading markets were Greece, £197,000, and Italy, £170,000. Freight facilities are largely responsible for the trend of the trade, and improved shipping facilities are an essential factor in the improvement of Cypriot economic relations with the rest of the Empire. In 1924 the balance of Cypriot imports was fairly equally distributed between America, £85,000, Italy £82,000, Germany £80,000, Egypt £78,000, Greece £68,000, and France £65,000. It is noteworthy that out of the imports from the Empire outside the United Kingdom of the value of £200,000 Australia's share was £133,000 while of the balance India was responsible for £60,000, leaving only £7,000 for the rest of the Empire.

The area of cultivated land in Cyprus, excluding the area under forests, has been estimated at about 1,450,000 acres. The principal crops are wheat and barley. The following table gives the areas and yields of the crops in 1924:—

Crop.	Area (in acres)	Yield.
Wheat	191,251	1,851,000 bushels
Barley	112,870	1,695,000 ,,
Oats	16,908	205,000 ,,
Maize	600	8,921 ,,
Vetches	61,404	165,000 ,,
Cotton	10,575	1,4[illegible]5,310 okes
Potatoes	2,006	6,560,210 ,,
Beans	6,707	2,224,960 ,,
Sesame	3,708	235,23[illegible] ,,

An Oke equals 2·8 lb.

On the whole the year was a good one for agriculture, and while yields were on the whole lower than in 1923 higher prices were realised. The yield of grapes was smaller, but the production of other fruit was excellent, and it is believed that the output will continue to increase. The volume of the wine industry increases. In 1924 260,000 dunums (a dunum equals .228 acres) were under vines as compared with 241,280 dunums in 1923. The production of grapes and raisins, wine and spirits as compared with 1923 was as follows:—

	1924	1923
Grapes	34,000,0[illegible]0 okes	41,496,213 okes
Spirits	819,602 gallons	299,146 gallons
Raisins	3,132,120 okes	999,740 okes
Wine	2,955,446 gallons	5,771,890 gallons

The production of cotton in the Island must be regarded as somewhat disappointing. Cotton has been grown in Cyprus for centuries, and when the Island was under the Venetians, the output was said to be several thousand bales of 280 lb. each. As the figures for the last seven years which are given below show there has been no real progress in the production of this important crop.

In Bales of 400 lb.

1918—19	1,000	1922—23	1,505
1919—20	3,325	192 —24	2,233
1920—21	2,687	1924—25	2,155
1921—22	2,547	(estimated)	

During the period in question the production of cotton in the Empire excluding India has risen from 82,220 bales to 350,374 bales, so that the relative share of Cyprus has greatly diminished over this period. As it is at the present time such a paying crop it might be thought that it would pay Cypriots to concentrate on cotton production provided that doing so would not mean interference with any essential crop.

The minerals of Cyprus play a considerable part in the export trade, and promise to be of increasing value to the Island. They include copper pyrites, asbestos, gypsum, terra umbra, chrome and magnesite. Another great source of wealth in the future should be the forests of the Island. The re-afforestation necessary to restore Cyprus to its formerly well-wooded condition is no light task, and the work that has already been accomplished in this direction is very notable.

Such are in brief some aspects of the economic position of Cyprus. As will be seen from what has been written the position generally, while far from unsatisfactory, leaves room for a great deal of improvement. From an agricultural point of view the Island is happy in its situation. It has an excellent climate, and the soil is readily responsive to the tiller. It could be made an important supplier of timber to the world markets; as it is its potentialities in this direction are considerable. And finally it has important minerals. The utilisation to the full of these three factors should give the Island an adequate

General View of Interior of Pavilion.

measure of prosperity; and for its surplus products it may be hoped that in the years to come the Island will mainly depend on the other parts of the Empire and in return will look to them to an increasing extent for its supplies. The position of Cyprus in the Eastern waters of the Mediterranean naturally facilitates the relations of the Island with the neighbouring markets, but making every allowance for that factor there is no question that Cyprus can find much greater scope in the Empire markets in the future than she has in the past.

To the last has been left reference to a possible development which may mean much to Cyprus, and that is the recognition of the advantages offered by the Island as a tourist resort. Numbers of visitors come to Cyprus every year, but mainly from Egypt to which in the hot season Cyprus stands very much in the same position that Simla stands to Delhi or Calcutta. Cyprus, too, is very hot in the summer, but the heat is trying only in the plains and in the hilly regions it is not only cool and shady, but the atmosphere is delightful and invigorating. The place of the Island in history, its ancient monuments, its scenery, its setting in the Mediterranean should ensure for it each year at least, a part of the stream of tourists that annually passes eastwards along the Mediterranean. But for that to happen the attractions of the Island must be made known to the world at large in the same way that other resorts have achieved popularity.

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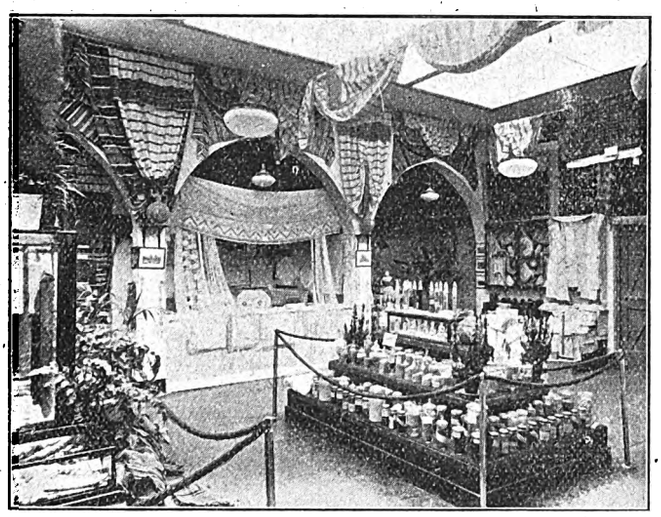
CYPRUS AT WEMBLEY.

Display of Island's Resources.

The Cyprus pavilion at Wembley is a self-evident proof, if such were necessary, of the success of last year's exhibition. From sharing a pavilion with Palestine, Cyprus has blossomed out into a habitation of its own, a development which can only be regarded as peculiarly fitting in view of the recent change in the Island's status, and one which enables the display to much greater advantage of the wealth of exhibits which made the Cypriot stands such an attraction a year ago. Cyprus is fortunate in the position of its new home, which is situated on what may not inaptly be called the tideway of Wembley. It fringes the Amusements Park, is directly opposite Treasure Island, and hard by is that unfailing lure to all visitors—the Government Pavilion. Thus Cyprus will have this summer an unrivalled opportunity of displaying its resources, and of thus laying the foundations for a wider market for the Island's produce in this country and throughout the Empire. Last year enough was done in this direction to suggest that another season would be productive of really good results, and the experiences so far are most encouraging. It must be explained however,



An Effective Corner of the Pavilion.

that Wembley is only a means to an end and not the end in itself. It is a gateway to the Empire markets, but if the use of this entrance is to be really fruitful it must be followed up afterwards. Markets are as shy as the proverbial suitor, and everything must be made as easy as possible for buyers. The Great Dominions have realised this aspect of the British market, and each of them displays at their headquarters in London a varied array of their products. If Cyprus is really to profit by Wembley it must follow in their footsteps and do likewise. It must, in short, set up a permanent London habitation—in the Strand for preference, for that is where the Empire as a whole sets out its wares—where the products of the Island can be inspected.

The whole range of Cypriot life can be seen in the comprehensive series of exhibits in the pavilion. As the Island's staple industry is agriculture the bulk of the exhibits are those of the direct or indirect products of the soil. Grains of all kinds, wines, oils, timbers, and minerals are among the many objects on view. But Cyprus has her industries also, and articles of silk, rugs and carpets, pottery, and silver ware serve to show her potentialities in this direction. Apart from these exhibits the pavilion has many objects of interest such as painted scenes of Cyprus that form backgrounds for the stands, two maps drawn by Lord Kitchener when he was on the Island, and two cases filled with Cypriot glassware dating between 3500 B.C. and 300 A.D. This glassware, which is well worth a visit for itself, gives a most interesting idea of the way in which craftmanship ebbed and flowed in those far-off days. The work of the best period is exquisite, and leaves one wondering at the deftness and skill of the pioneers of industry who fashioned it.

In keeping with their importance the exhibits of cereals and other agricultural products are in the centre of the building. This stand is a veritable revelation of the Island's potentialities. As a matter of fact almost anything grows in Cyprus. Climate and soil are favourable, and it would be no exaggeration to say that with careful cultivation the land can be made to "blossom like the rose." Here are to be seen samples of Cypriot wheat, oats, barley, and these cereals are the finest of their kind.

The carob bean figures prominently among the exhibits, needless to say, for this is one of the Island's staple articles of export. Carobs, it may be mentioned *en passant*, are now being utilised to advantage in the manufacture of cattle cake. There is also a large display of essential oils such as laurel and rose. Cyprus produces admirable attar of roses which competes with the Bulgarian product. A large variety of bottled fruits such as peaches, pears and apricots testify to another industry in the development of which Cyprus should have a good opportunity in the world markets.

Wine-making is an industry for which Cyprus has been famous from time immemorial and wines,

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See our Stand in the Cyprus Pavilion - Wembley

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spirits and liqueurs figure largely among the exhibits. Mastic, mandarin, citron and vermouth liqueurs, sherry, and red and white wines are some of the products, while the famous Commanderia is also shown. Of this wine, which dates back centuries ago, there are some choice vintages on view, the dates of which would turn the connoisseur's mind to '15 and '40 ports and '37 brandy and suchlike sinful delights of the palate. An excellent brandy is also exhibited by Messrs. Christ. Haggipavlu and Sons, the oldest established firm at Limassol. This brandy has received a number of highest awards and medals at international exhibitions, and now that it is being placed on the British market the public here will have an opportunity of testing its qualities.

One of the most interesting stands is that devoted to a display of the timbers produced in Cyprus. The range is remarkable, and shows how Cyprus will benefit from the reafforestation that is now in process of being carried out. The varieties of wood include cedar, cypress, mulberry, Persian lilac, olive, alder, juniper and eucalyptus. Among the manufactures shown is a table of eucalyptus wood. The eucalyptus is one of the most vigorous of Cyprus trees, and it is said that there are 200 kinds of it in the Island. A varied selection of the minerals of Cyprus is also on view such as stone, marble, copper pyrites and terra umbra. Mention must also be made of the large collection of sponges in the centre of the building.

The large sales effected last year of Cyprus cigarettes have induced other firms to join the ranks of exhibitors, and no doubt they will have an equally satisfactory experience, for the many repeat orders bear tribute to the fact that the British public has taken readily to the cigarettes. The Exhibition, however, will not always be with us, and unless the potential purchaser can get the article he wants without any difficulty he will not trouble about it, and it would be interesting to know how the firms exhibiting at Cyprus propose to keep in touch with their clientèle and, be it added, to enlarge the market for their products.

The silver exhibits constitute one of the features of the pavilion. Spoons, forks, finger bowls and other similar articles shown are notable for the charm of their design. As examples of the craftsman's art they are well worth an inspection. The exhibits of silk and lace articles, etc., are many and choice. Silks can be had in a wide range of alluring colours, and among the many articles shown special mention must be made of some magnificent silk bedspreads. Some of the lace patterns are literally superb. It will be remembered that it was in this section last year that Queen Mary was so interested in some examples of this work. Rugs and carpets, etc., are shown in profusion, in a variety of patterns and in very attractive colours, while sheets and curtains illustrate further the range of Cypriot industry of this type. The fairer sex will doubtless be particularly attracted by the excellent array of furs and skins, though the weather now is happily not such as to call for their immediate use. There are some exquisite lamb furs and fox skins which are also made up in jacket form. They are quite inexpensive, and it is not surprising to learn that they are selling very well.

A novelty in the Cyprus pavilion or rather just outside it is a stand of Cyprus oranges. This is the first time that Cyprus oranges have been exhibited, and as in flavour and size they compare very favourably with the best types on the market, it may be expected that this enterprise will lead to their obtaining a permanent opening in this country.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Encouraging Increase in Production.

A very satisfactory account of the progress in cotton cultivation within the Empire is given in the annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association which has just been issued. We give the following extracts from the report:—

The increase which has taken place in cotton production in the various parts of the Empire during the year under review is very encouraging, and the industry is now established on a sound commercial basis in a number of Colonies and Protectorates to the mutual advantage of those countries and of Lancashire.

Whilst there have been signs of some improvement in the position of the cotton industry during the year, the demand for cotton goods is still much below normal, and many mills using American types of cotton have again had to work short time. Even under existing conditions the supply of good usable American cotton has been limited, and one of the features of the Liverpool Cotton Market has been the increased inquiry for cotton of outside growths. The total sales of cotton other than American and Egyptian in Liverpool during the season ended July 31, 1924, amounted to 629,820 bales, made up as follows: Brazilian 50,040, Peruvian 305,680, Sudan 35,340, West Indian, etc., 16,980; Sea Island 4,270, East African 65,660, West African 19,030, Australian 7,430, East Indian, etc., 104,560, China, Smyrna, etc., 20,830; total 629,820 bales.

The proposition that Empire and other outside growths of cotton should be made tenderable against the American futures contract has not yet received the approval of the directors of the Liverpool Cotton Association, who appointed a special committee to consider the question. In coming to the decision that additional growths of cotton be not tenderable on the American Futures Contract, the Liverpool Cotton Association recognised the desirability of providing a separate contract based on Middling American cotton (universal standard) on which American and certain outside growths may be tendered, and an instruction was given to the directors that a contract embodying this principle be drawn up for further consideration by the members. Whilst it is realised that there are difficulties, the Council are disappointed with this decision, as it is considered that the market in the proposed new form of contract would be too narrow and useless for the purpose.

India.

The following varieties and areas of cotton were grown in the 1923-24 season on the B.C.G.A. (Punjab), Ltd., estate near Khanewal—a company in which the Association have a considerable interest:—

Variety	*Area in acres.*	*Yield per acre.*
4F	672	13.9 maunds * (sown under one watering)
285F	250	14.1 maunds (sown under two waterings)
289F	450	14.5 maunds (sown with two waterings)
Mollisoni	607	15.5 maunds (sown monthly with two waterings)

* (1 maund = 82⅔ lbs.)

The average yield of American types approximates 15¼ maunds per acre, and compares with the yield of 12 maunds per acre in 4F and 289F, and 10½ maunds for the 285F the previous season. The 285F and 289F types were in very good demand in Lancashire, and the best 285F was valued at 50 points over American middling cotton. No other large or even small estate in the Punjab can point to such results.

Great attention is paid to the supply of pure seed, and sufficient to sow a lakh of acres of cotton was supplied either to the Agricultural Department or direct to cultivators last season. The B.C.G.A. (Punjab) Ltd., give assistance in selling produce for which a premium over the ordinary market qualities is always available. In order

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to facilitate the securing of the highest prices for cotton, the company has established its own buying agency, and tenants' cotton is bought at premiums over the market rate; other large zemindars who sell to the agency and can produce uniform quality cotton also receive premiums.

With a view to assisting the work of the Agricultural Department, large scale tests of varieties are carried out by growing types alongside one another, and recording yields separately. It is hoped in this way to secure early results as to the value of new varieties (constantly being produced by the Agricultural Department) when decided under ordinary conditions away from Government farms.

A report is sent each year to the Government on the value of Punjab American cotton in Lancashire, thus tending to keep the grower in touch with the value of long stapled cotton, as compared to native types. Experiments are being conducted in investigating power cultivation, whether from tractors or steam, as compared to tenant farming. It is hoped that very important economic results will be secured, as large tracts will shortly be coming under cultivation for the first time, both in the Punjab and Sind, and under present conditions settling and colonising a new tract is slow work, after the completion of a canal. It is very probable, so far as existing evidence goes, that assistance during the first years of colonisation will materially reduce the project costs estimated for such canals as the Sutlej Valley in the Punjab and the Sukkur Barrage in Sind.

According to the fourth forecast of the Punjab Cotton Crop for the year 1924 the area reported under cotton exceeds the actual area of the previous year by 30 per cent., and of the quinquennial and decennial averages by 44 and 52 per cent. respectively. Of the total area, 934,200 acres are reported under American and 1,339,400 acres under Desi cotton. The acreage under American cotton is a record, and the total estimated out-turn in British districts is estimated at 354,700 bales of American and 422,900 bales of Desi. The total yield is 36 per cent. more than last year, and averages .34 bales per acre sown, and the yield in native states is reported as 115,000 bales, or 91 per cent. better than last year.

The Sukkur Barrage Scheme will eventually bring some six million acres annually under crop, and it is anticipated that cotton will be found suitable for the whole of the commanded area, with the exception of the rice tracts, which amounts to some 50 lakhs of acres. The essential limiting factor to the possible cotton area, however, is the irrigation supply; the canals have been designed so as to ensure that they can be run at full supply level throughout the year, and as winter crops require only half as much as summer crops, it follows that two-thirds of the cultivation must be conducted in the rabi season. Under the present design the cotton area under full development may reach one million acres, though the area assumed in the estimates is about 750,000 acres. The area of culturable land believed to be suitable for cotton growing within this irrigation scheme is some 50 lakhs of acres, so that there is ample room for a much larger cotton area, should the future demand for the product become sufficiently intense to justify the reconstruction scheme. From this it will be obvious that the facilities for growing cotton in Sind, after the new canal system comes into operation, will be entirely different from those in the past, and that there will be a huge area of land commanded by perennial "flow" irrigation, the supply of which will be regular and certain.

Efforts to improve the cotton of Sind have been carried out over many years, and the Indian Central Cotton Committee have come to the conclusion that provided a perennial supply of water can be assured, there is no other part of India which offers such hopeful prospects of the successful cultivation of long-stapled cotton. The climate and soil are in every way most suitable, and all that is wanted is water at the right time and in sufficient quantity. From results already obtained it is clear that cotton has a bright future in Sind with every probability that good staple will be secured when the irrigation system becomes reliable under the new scheme.

Ceylon.

In the island of Ceylon the cultivation of cotton has so far scarcely advanced beyond the experimental stage, but the Department of Agriculture, who have been carrying out tests on a modest scale for some time, are of opinion that it can be grown successfully. As a result of experiments which have been made, it is stated that large tracts of land in the Eastern and North-central Provinces are suitable for cotton cultivation, and it has been decided to call in expert advice to report on the subject. It was expected that the expert would be able to commence his investigations early in 1925.

The Sudan.

There has been a large increase in rain-grown cotton in the Blue Nile Province and Fung, and with reasonable prices further developments of rain-grown are anticipated in the near future. The Nuba Mountain Province, which is situated between the White Nile and Kordofan, is expected to prove a valuable cotton-growing area, as there are large tracts with good cotton soil, and ideal climatic conditions. On the other hand there are various difficulties to be overcome, not the least of which is the lack of adequate transport facilities.

The total crop estimated for 1924-25 for the Sudan is 35,600 bales of Sakellarides cotton and 19,700 bales of American cotton, making a total of 55,300 bales. There has been an inadequate flood at Tokar, where the crop shows a substantial reduction on the previous year, otherwise the results would have been even better.

Iraq.

Among various factors which hinder cotton development in Iraq is soil salinity, and it is unfortunate that even the new canals have been laid out without previous soil surveys being made of the areas to be commanded. Increasing salinity was only to be expected in the absence of drainage, but the rapidity of the increase is a serious matter and cannot be ascribed to the actual salt evaporated

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	289-293
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	293-297
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.40—20 43
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.06-25.07
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	101.85 - 104 00
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,030—1,040
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	344-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	900—910
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2 3	4.85 1/32—4.86 1/32
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	99 75 - 102.20
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	122½—122⅞
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42¼
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.45-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.20-25.35

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from the water put on the land during the last few years, but rather to the alteration of the level of the sub-soil water and the bringing up of salt from below. It is only by progressive and well-planned drainage schemes that deterioration can be avoided, but in spite of these drawbacks the cultivation of cotton will continue to increase, but it must not be expected that the increase will be rapid.

The production of cotton during 1924 exceeded 2,500 bales, against 1,500 bales for 1923, and 350 bales for 1922, and the quality of the cotton is excellent. Approximately 130 tons of seed were sold for sowing during 1924, in addition to eight tons which was issued free to replant in cases where the first planting had been destroyed by locusts, and it is considered that at least 90 per cent. of the seed has been actually planted.

Whilst the indications are that progress in Iraq will be somewhat slow, owing to lack of drainage, irrigation and shortage of population, there can be no doubt that the Association's work in the country is established on a firm basis and a steady increase in the production of cotton may be looked for. In order to deal with the increased production, a large up-to-date pneumatic ginning plant, together with a standard Hydraulic Press, was despatched to Baghdad, and the storage accommodation has been enlarged.

ROUMANIA'S FORESTS.

With the annexation of the Bukovina and Transylvania, Roumania acquired some of the richest timber forests in Central Europe. A number of large timber firms are engaged upon their exploitation, and the Roumanian ports open up foreign markets. But the industry is nevertheless passing through a period of crisis, the alleviation of which is not yet in view (says the *Monthly Review* of the Anglo-Austrian Bank). This is due to various Government regulations which hamper the trade, to the lack of adequate railway transport, and to the variable position of the lei. Roumania can only compete in Hungary, which is the natural consumer of Transylvanian timber, if the lei currency happens to be favourable. A further handicap is the increase of freight and customs charges from May 1, 1925. The position of the soft wood industry is particularly unfavourable at the moment, as the home market and Hungary are making no demands and Greece, Italy and Alexandria are backward in sending orders, while France is waiting for lower prices. The export of hard wood to Yugoslavia was assisted by the rise of the dinar. Firewood, for which an enormous demand was attained after the War, has now largely been ousted by coal which in Western Roumania is being imported from Hungary.

Mr. Thomas Fender, a special director of Messrs. Vickers Ltd, whose retirement, on medical advice, from the active service of the company was recently announced, was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne 61 years ago. Educated at the Elswick Works School and Institute in that city, he served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited, at their Elswick Works and, after filling a staff position as foreman in the gun department, was in due course appointed to the machine inspection department. In 1901 Mr. Fender left Elswick, and joined the staff of Messrs. Vickers Limited at Barrow-in-Furness, with the object of introducing the premium bonus system of payment by results, an achievement which he successfully accomplished, though not without encountering considerable opposition. In 1910 Mr. Fender was appointed works superintendent at Barrow, and in 1919 he was made a special director of the company, a position which he will retain for a further period of two years, in order that the board may have the benefit of his expert advice.

The proceeds from the new duties on sugar and tea in Persia are to be devoted to railway construction.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES OF AZERBAIJAN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have read with interest the article on Azerbaijan in your issue of June 4, but I regret to say that, whilst I agree with your contributor as to the wealth of the country, I fail to see where the "commercial possibilities" are to be found. Under existing conditions, the Soviet foreign trade monopoly debars all direct trade relations with the people of this "independent" State, while the system of nationalisation, practised in all Soviet Republics, is opposed to all private enterprise.

As for the mention of the great oil resources which "have yielded enormous revenues during the last 50 years," this serves only to remind me that this source of oil was developed only by the expenditure of huge sums of British money and that all the British owned properties thus created have now been confiscated by the Soviets.

If your correspondent intended to convey that the commercial possibilities of Azerbaijan may become a reality when the Soviet economic system is abandoned, then I entirely agree with him. But did he?—Yours faithfully,

E. LUBOFF.

23-28, Fleet Street, E.C.4, June 8.

PERMANENT SAMPLES ROOMS AT BRATISLAVA.

The Department of Overseas Trade is informed that the authorities of the Bratislava Sample Fair have organised a permanent sample showroom, to the existence of which it is desired to call the attention of British firms interested in the Czecho-Slovak market.

The Director of the Fair, who takes a keen interest in the promotion of sales through the medium of the permanent samples room, is anxious to get into communication with British firms producing motor bicycles, cartridges for sporting guns, gramophone records, and wax vestas, and is prepared to discuss the possibilities of securing business for machinery for use in sawmills, copper sulphate, and British-made boots and shoes.

It is suggested that interested United Kingdom firms should communicate direct with Dr. Gregr, Directeur de la Foire du Danube, Bratislava, who will, after an agreement as to the terms for exhibiting has been reached, be prepared to secure the entry of samples and literature into Czecho-Slovakia without the payment of import duties. It is understood that the whole transaction can be carried through at a very small cost to British firms, no charge being made for exhibiting space.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Waterworks.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for a contract for new waterworks at Fikria. July 2. (D.O.T.)

Twillette.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for twillette, 56 in./58 in., 1,500 yards. July 7.

Bogie First Class Carriages.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 5, 10, 20, 30, or 40 Bogie first class carriages of all steel construction. June 27.

Handles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 18,900 wooden handles of different dimensions for tools. July 6.

CYPRUS.

Mail Steamship Service between Cyprus and Egypt.—The Government of Cyprus invites tenders for a mail steamship service between Cyprus and Egypt. All tenders must be lodged on or before September 1. The services required commence on January 1, 1926, and the Government of Cyprus is prepared to enter into a contract for the continuance of such services for a period of not less than three years with the successful tenderer. The steamship carrying the mails must be a ship registered as a British ship and flying the British flag. All tenders should be sealed and addressed, as should be all other communications relative to this service, to the Colonial Secretary, Nicosia, Cyprus. The mail contractors will be required to bind themselves not to refuse any general cargo which may be offered for transport, provided the freightage is tendered and the necessary accommodation is available, nor to grant preferential rates in respect of passengers or goods transported. The Government of Cyprus does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Further particulars regarding this tender can be obtained by interested British firms on application to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

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Near East Markets.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ.

The Anti-Locust Campaign.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended May 15, states:—

April was characterised by a sudden fall in temperature at the beginning of the month followed by a slow recovery to normal conditions. The month was unusually calm and dry. The general climatic conditions were favourable for all crops, except for the continued absence of normal rainfall which adversely affected the rain-fed cereals. Germinations of early sown summer crops were slightly delayed by the cool spell at the beginning of the month, but serious harm will not result.

The position with regard to winter cereals is still regarded as serious. All over the country the prices of grain remain high and have shown little signs of weakening with the cutting of the first crops to ripen. In the Mosul Liwa particularly the position remains acute. Practically all cultivation on the Tigris right bank has been destroyed by locusts and the loss over the entire Liwa is expected to reach as high as 70 per cent. Arbil Liwa is better with an estimated loss of 30 per cent., and below this the losses will not be great. Middle Mesopotamia has good harvest prospects over a slightly less area than usual and conditions are reported as fairly good from the Euphrates areas. All winter cereals are very free from disease, and rust particularly is practically non-existent this year.

Harvesting in Middle and Lower Iraq started in early May, and in the north large areas have been cut immature to save them from the depredations of locusts. In many cases, however, this has been used for fodder, and in no case will any useful amount of grain be threshed from these early cuttings, due to the backward condition of the crops.

The anti-locust campaign was vigorously pursued up to the last week in April when the insects passed through their final moult and began to fly. On the whole a satisfactory fight against the pest has been made. The locusts which had laid on the southern side of the Jabal Hamrin and which threatened all the cultivated area of the Dialah down to Baghdad have been practically entirely destroyed. In the Kirkuk district the energetic campaign of the Liwa authorities has undoubtedly been successful, and the measures taken in Arbil and Mosul, whilst not so thoroughly successful, due to the far greater numbers of the pest, and the much greater expanses of the breeding grounds, have nevertheless undoubtedly saved crops from utter destruction. As a result of this year's campaign it may be confidently stated that the cultivated areas on the left bank of the Tigris from Mosul downwards can, with due encouragement from Government, successfully combat all locusts hatched in their territory. The problem of the right bank is, however, much more difficult. From Mosul to Samarrah the eggs are laid practically all over the *Jesirah* and population does not exist to take any useful measures. Locusts hatched here will always menace the left bank cultivation, and in years of late harvest, like the present, will be capable of doing enormous damage. A phenomenon, not yet understood, was observed during the campaign. On April 3 a high wind with dense dust was experienced. Active operations had to be suspended for the day. In Kirkuk, Tekrit, and Samarrah the large swarms of hoppers against which operations were in progress totally disappeared and were never again found. Yet, equally bad weather conditions in other places had no effect whatever on the hoppers, which simply went to ground until the weather conditions ameliorated.

Cotton sowings are in progress, but the area which will be put under this crop will be less than last year. The root reason has been the lack of plough animals strong enough to do the preliminary cultivation. A good deal of the cotton that has been sown has, in consequence, been sown on the flat. The earlier sowings were bad in germination and were in some cases injured by hail. The sowings have, however, been done. Small amounts of cotton are being sown in Northern Iraq as experiments to test the possibility of producing a crop after the depredations of locusts have ceased. The areas are not big, however, as all available summer water is badly needed for cultivation of food grains.

First reports of the date season prospects are encouraging. Flowering has been profuse and the dates have set fruit well. On the Shat-al-Arab Hallawis are reported to be only 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. below last year, which was a good year, and Khadrawis and Sayer are reported to be much heavier than last year. Intense cold in winter is usually followed by profuse flowerings, but it remains to be seen how far the constitution of the palms has been affected by the hard conditions experienced. Citrous fruits flowered profusely, but have not set much fruit. Summer stone fruit, apricots, nectarines, plums, etc., are in the market in large quantities and over average quality.

With improved fodder the condition of live-stock throughout the country is greatly improved. Wool clipping continues general, but the losses of last winter are now being felt by the cultivators and the supplies of sour milk and milk products generally are abnormally low.

The July-April exports of wheat from Iraq were 11,104 tons, and of barley 31,195 tons, total 32,299 tons as compared with 183,375 tons exported during the same period last year. The August to April exports of dates from Iraq were 141,623 tons, valued at Rs. 1,83,61,056 as compared with 122,367 tons, valued at Rs. 1,55,02,840 exported during the corresponding season last year. The July-April exports of wool from Iraq were 17,465 tons as compared with 5,065 tons exported during the same period last year.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 6 states:—

Although some firms were nominally open for business on Tuesday and Wednesday, most of them closed down completely for the whole of Whit-week, and, as usual, there has been no serious attempt to do business. Under the headings of yarn and cloth therefore there is nothing to report.

Raw Cotton.—The Liverpool cotton market was open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only. Late on Tuesday the first report of the American Agricultural Bureau was received. This gave the condition of the crop on May 25 at 76.6 per cent., which was a little better than had been anticipated. The figure compares with 65.6 per cent. at the same time last year and an average over the last ten years of 72 per cent.

There was only a slight decline in prices following the receipt of the news, the good condition having apparently been already discounted. On Thursday, however, following a strong New York market, "spot" prices rose by ½d. per lb., and as that market has raised prices every day since, a stiff advance is to be anticipated when Liverpool re-opens on Monday.

This movement is due to heavy buying of all crop contracts and to unfavourable reports regarding the weather in the all-important State of Texas. Following a very dry winter there has been a further drought and unless rain falls at an early date it is feared that the position may become really serious. Liverpool's closing quotations on Thursday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.48; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 31.30.

Reuter's Athens correspondent states that a provisional supplementary commercial agreement between Greece and Germany has just been signed by which Greece grants Germany her full Customs tariff and Germany reduces import duties on Greek raisins from 20 to 16 marks per 100 kilogrammes, with a promise to reduce them still further on the conclusion of a final agreement.

Palestine has reduced the import duties on uncut tobacco and tombac to P.T. 40 and P.T. 20 per kilog., respectively, as from May 1.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended May 28, state:—The futures market during the past week has been dull, both for Sakel and Uppers. The net changes on the week are the following: Sakellarides, 1.05 dollars up for July, 0.53 dollars down for November, 0.50 dollars down for January. Ashmouni, 0.57 dollars down for June, 0.35 down for August, 0.38 dollars down for October, 0.40 dollars down for December.

Far from any improvement we have this week to report a further falling off in the demand and the regular takings of Uppers which have recently been the feature have not been in evidence during the past few days. In spite of the further shrinkage of the demand prices have been more or less maintained, but this is due more to firmness of holders than anything else. The stock of tenderable grades is very small and and it is accordingly an easy matter to hold up prices but it yet remains to be seen whether this holding up will prove profitable. At the May 3 tender Crs 1,250 dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to Crs 12,710 against exports Crs 70,105; the stock stands at Crs 813,721.

Spot: Minet el Bassal continues a quiet market and sales amount to about 4,500 B/s of which we estimate 1,700 B/s Sakel, 2600 B/s Uppers, 100 B/s Zagora and 100 B/s Various growths.

Sakellarides: A moderate business has been done covering all grades and a fair demand has been met with for the very low qualities. Spot differences are generally rather cheaper, especially for the lower qualities.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in fairly good demand in all grades. With the exception of Fair which is a little dearer, spot differences are unchanged.

Pilion: has been in poor request. Spot differences are generally unchanged.

Brown: is neglected and only a few bales have been done. Spot differences are quoted nominal and unchanged.

White: A few bales only have changed hands. Spot differences are markedly easier.

Crop 1925: Climatic conditions have been favourable and the plant in Upper Egypt and in the South and Central Delta is progressing normally. In the Northern Delta progress is rather less marked. The plants in these districts have a bad start and not much recovery of the delay reported in our recent circulars is noticeable. The temperatures for the last day or two have been, however favourable to improvement and with the supply of water sufficient for present needs rather better reports may be anticipated.

INTERNATIONAL COMBUSTION LIMITED.

Vickers and International Combustion Engineering Limited announce that the name of the company has been changed to "International Combustion, Limited." The nominal capital of the company is being increased from £500,000 to £1,200,000.

Sir Trevor Dawson, who was chairman of the company, while retaining his interest in the company, has found that its expanding business necessitated more of his time than he was able to devote to it, and has asked to be relieved of his position. The directors of the company, and Mr. S. McEwen, have been elected directors, Taylor, who is also the managing director of the company, and the chairman and managing director of Taylor Brothers and Company Limited and a director of the London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Mr. George C. Usher, the general manager of the company, and Mr. S. McEwen, have been elected directors, and the board now consists of:—G. R. T. Taylor, G. E. Learnard, U.S.A., W. R. Wood, U.S.A., B, H, Binder, Noel H. Docker, George C. Usher, and S. McEwen.

The offices of the company remain at Africa House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., the manufacture of the company's products being carried out at the works at Barrow-in-Furness, which are leased by special arrangement from Messrs. Vickers, Limited.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company recommends a final dividend for the year ended March 31 of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 16 per cent. for the year. The dividend and bonus of 9 per cent. now declared will be paid less tax at 2s. 5d. in £ on July 27.

The Bengal and North Western Railway Company, after transferring £50,000 to reserve and placing as usual £35,000 to sinking fund, has declared a dividend for the half-year ended March 31 of 4 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent., or 6 per cent. in all, on the ordinary stock. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less tax at the rate of 2s. 5d. in £, on July 27.

The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company announces a dividend for the half-year ended March 31 of 4 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent., on the ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 2s. 7d. in £, on July 27.

The ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on June 19, at 12,30 p.m.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., an allied companies for May was 15,608 tons gross, and the throughput of the refineries 20,460 tons.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Co., Bucharest, for May was 22,820 tons.

The directors of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., have decided to pay an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) on account of the year ending June 30 next, payable on June 25 to all shareholders registered in the books of the company on June 11, 1925.

The African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., announce that the dividend on the 6 per cent. A and B preference shares to June 30 will be paid on July 1.

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, June 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 19); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 27).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. Wigmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 25); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 4); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, June 12); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 13)

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*CIRCASSIA, June 12.	*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*OLYMPIA, June 26.	*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
*CASTALIA, July 7.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the year 1924, states that the net profit, after making the usual provision for depreciation on the property, amounts to £176,610, which, with £236,702 brought forward, makes £413,312. The directors recommend that £186,055 be applied to the payment of dividends on the respective classes of shares, leaving £227,256 to be carried forward, subject to taxation. The proportion of the profits allotted in accordance with the articles of association, to the "B" shares allows for the payment of a dividend equal to 10 per cent. upon the "B" share capital, less tax.

The total estimated net production of crude oil for the year amounted to 160,251 tons, as compared with 150,422 tons in 1923. The increase of 9,829 tons is mainly due to the satisfactory results given by the new dehydrating plant, which commenced operations at the end of June. The success of this plant has enabled a number of old wells with a high percentage of water in the production to be reopened. Nearly the whole of the increase occurred during the last six months of the year.

The hope expressed in last year's report that the results of new wells, which were being drilled to the north of the Hurghada Main Field, would confirm the existence of some additional productive territory, has been proved to be correct. Two wells were completed during the year in this area, both of which are producing, and two further wells were commenced which had made satisfactory progress by the end of the year. Two additional wells were completed within the known productive area of the main field with satisfactory results.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31, 1925, states that the net profit is £128,115 plus £71,163 brought in. The Directors recommend a dividend of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares, plus a bonus of 2 per cent., adding to the special reserve £14,278 carrying forward £100,000. The directors state that favourable prices encouraged cultivators to increase the area put under cotton and the crop of 1924, which will produce about 7,000,000 kantars, has generally been realised under good conditions. The company's borrowers were therefore able to settle their annuities more easily and even to reduce the amount of arrears outstanding. Business in new loans has more or less followed the course referred to in the last report, and in these circumstances it is not surprising that the amount of loans again shows a net reduction of £138,909 over the previous year. Meeting, 6-7, King William Street, E.C., June 23, 2.30 p.m.

TATA IRON AND STEEL.

The report for the year to March 31 last states that the tonnage of pig-iron produced was 552,000 tons, compared with 442,000 tons in 1923-24: steel ingots 370,000 tons, against 235,000; and finished steel 248,000, against 163,000 tons. The net profits amount to Rs. 64,71,013, which with the sum brought forward, Rs. 3,85,934, makes Rs. 68,56,947. £61,000,000 has been appropriated for depreciation on fixed capital expenditure, leaving Rs. 7,56,747. The year has been the worst experienced by industry since the War. As to the future, as production increases works costs will come down. The company is booked well ahead with orders.

A slight local earthquake shock was registered by the Helonan seismograph at 1.30 last Thursday morning.

During March 84 vessels of a net tonnage of 275,610 entered Port Sudan harbour compared with 64 vessels of a net tonnage of 191,596 in the corresponding month last year.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

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

Mosul, May 16. The barley harvest is on the point of terminating and that of wheat is commencing. According to reports generally the yield will be small.

Hamadan, May 29. Market conditions have undergone little change. The prices of Indian goods have risen slightly and stocks are small. On the other hand there are comparatively large stocks of Manchester cotton goods. Sugar has fallen owing to imports from Russia. Belgian sugar is selling at 9.60 krans per batman of 3 kilos, while Marseilles and Russian sugar has been done at 9.40 krans.

Cyprus, May 2. The local markets continue dull, and there is very little doing. This state of affairs will probably continue until after the harvest, which is now in full swing.

THE ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

There are already visible in Roumania some of the effects of the so-called "nationalisation of the subsoil" policy, which was inaugurated less than a year ago by the enactment of the mining law promulgated July 3, 1924, and in the petroleum industry, at least, the outlines of the furture exploitation programme have begun to appear, says an American Consular report. Roumania is the largest oil-producing country in Europe except Russia. Although its annual output is still less than 2 per cent. of the world's total, its large oil reserves are regarded as among the country's greatest natural assets, and are of interest outside the country itself on account of the large investment of foreign capital in the Roumanian petroleum industry.

The best year for oil production in Roumania was 1913, the last normal pre-War year, when the total output amounted to 1,885,225 metric tons of crude. The figures compiled by the Moniteur du Petrole Roumain for 1924, reveal a total production for that year of 1,851,231 tons, or only about 34,000 less than the previous record. It is very probable that the year 1925 will show a substantial increase over 1924. In fact, crude production in Roumania has been increasing so steadily and regularly during the past three years that it seems possible to calculate it in advance with a fair degree of accuracy.

While there seems to be no reasonable doubt of a steady increase in the production of crude petroleum in Roumania, it is a question what can be done with the increased output of oil under existing economic and financial conditions in the country. The refining capacity available is still probably twice as great as the actual production, but transportation facilities are inadequate. The one pipe line, from the refining centre (Ploesti) to the sea at Constanza, seems unable to function satisfactorily, and railroad facilities, such as tank cars, locomotives, and terminal facilities, appear to be less and less equal to the task of transporting refined products. There is a good market for Roumanian oil in the Mediterranean and central European countries, and in the Levant generally. Lack of transportation, however, is a handicap, and, from all angles, it would seem that if the Roumanian oil industry is to develop to its full capacity something must be done to overcome the growing difficulties of these conditions.

The small amount of drilling in the year immediately following the War was due due, of course, to the abnormal conditions resulting from the German occupation and the destruction of the wells and field equipment after the evacuation by the Roumanian and other allied forces. By the beginning of 1925, not counting hand wells, there were 1,012 wells actually in production and 636 wells drilling, a record never before equalled in Roumanian history. The crude production of 1924 yielded at first distillation 363,177 tons of gasoline, 277,531 of refined oil and distillate, 150,366 of gas and lubricating oils, and 814,153 of residue.

A steadily decreasing proportion of the crude production has been refined for exportation during the post-War years. In 1913, 55 per cent. of the production was refined and exported; in 1923 the percentage was 25, and in 1924 only 23.5 per cent.

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 736.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1925.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Cabinet Changes in Greece.

After a respite of nine months, Ministerial troubles have broken out again in Greece, with the sudden resignation of General Kondylis, Minister of the Interior. General Kondylis represents an independent factor in present Greek politics. A year ago, as Minister for War, he resigned his portfolio and brought about the fall of the Papanastasiou Cabinet. The reason given for his step was his dissatisfaction with the Government's attitude towards Communism, and he threatened to form a Fascist party with a view to fighting Communism. M. Papanastasiou weathered the storm for a few months, but in October he made way for M. Michalokopoulos, who was put forward as a solution of the rival claims of General Kondylis and M. Kaphandaris. The former entered the Ministry, and, although it was generally recognised that the Government's life depended very largely on his good will, he would seem to have carefully refrained hitherto from wrecking tactics. M. Michalokopoulos's tenure of office has proved far more successful than was anticipated of a compromise Government, and it was widely hoped that he would remain in power long enough to give Greece the respite she needs from political strife. The immediate cause of General Kondylis's resignation was a disturbance at refugee settlements near Athens in connection with which the Settlement Commission appears to have been more successful in its appeal to the Prime Minister than to General Kondylis, who refused to move in the matter. In spite of the latter's undertaking to continue to support the Government M. Michalokopoulos decided to resign. On the refusal of M. Kaphandaris, leader of the largest party in the Chamber, to form a Cabinet, however, M. Michalokopoulos has been left to reconstitute his Government. It is, therefore, possible that the short-lived crisis will cause no serious dislocation to the general political tranquillity that Greece has now enjoyed since the Prime Minister first assumed the reins of Government.

Ex-King Hussein.

Micawber-like, ex-King Hussein has been spending his period of exile from the Hejaz on board his yacht at Aqaba, hoping, no doubt, that a swing of the pendulum would send Sultan Ibn Saud back to Nejd and restore him to Mecca. He has been offered asylum at Basrah, but has preferred to remain nearer to his own country. With the passing of the months, however, conditions in the Arabian Peninsula have brought no improvement in the fortunes of the Hejaz. Ibn Saud seems unable to make any headway against Jeddah itself, where King Ali is installed, but his forces contrive to extend their conquests up and down the coast. Reports credit the Sultan with the intention of not being content until he has eliminated the House of Hussein from the Peninsula, and so long as the ex-King remains at Aqaba there is danger of an attack by the Wahabis. He has, accordingly, been requested by the British Government to place a greater distance between himself and the Nejd forces. The main interest, however, in the Hejaz at the present moment centres in the fate of the Haj. As is known, the Government of India recommended that Indians should not undertake the pilgrimage this year; but a section of Moslem opinion in the country decided otherwise, and a certain number of pilgrim ships have sailed. In these circumstances the Government is doing all it can to obtain safe conduct for the pilgrims. The first ship, heading for Rabegh, has been unable to enter that port and is reported to have gone to Port Sudan, while a British man-of-war is inspecting conditions at Rabegh.

By Air to India.

A month ago attention was called in these columns in connection with the proposed establishment within two years of a commercial airship service to India, to the extent to which Great Britain had fallen behind France and Germany in the maintenance of air services to-day. Apart from the mail service between Cairo and Baghdad maintained by the Royal Air Force, Great Britain had to her credit nothing longer in the way of regular air travel than the services to Berlin and to Zurich, while the French were responsible for services to Warsaw, to Bucharest and Constantinople, and to Morocco. The Secretary of State for Air has now made the important announcement that the Government have approved in principal the institution of a civil air service between Egypt and India, to supersede the fortnightly mail service at present maintained between Cairo and Baghdad. A concrete scheme for a weekly service each way between Kantara and Karachi is under consideration, and it is hoped that a start will be made during the coming winter. The necessary subsidy is to be found from the saving to be affected in the expenditure on defence in the Middle East. It is obvious that with the inauguration of this service the necessity for a feeding line from Britain to Egypt becomes still more urgent. The saving in time over the railway and sea trip might not be considerable, but there would be no point in allowing a foreign company to benefit at this end from the traffic between Egypt and India. As far as the maintenance of the proposed service is concerned the first stretch to Basrah presents no difficulties. The provision of landing grounds in the mountainous country of Persia that has to be flown over is a for-

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midable task; but the successful flight of Sir Sefton Brancker and Mr. Alan Cobham shows that the problem presents no insuperable obstacles. For India the service will mean a saving in time for the journey to and from London of at least five days.

Plots in Turkey.

Very circumstantial evidence has been supplied by the President of the Angora Tribunal of Independence regarding a conspiracy that is said to have been formed against the Republic at the instigation of the ex-Sultan Wahid-ed-Din. In the East the ordinary affairs of life are often transacted with more heat than it is usual to introduce into them in the West, and so in the sphere of politics it is perhaps inevitable that rival parties should take their political differences much more seriously than Westerners do. The spectacle of an Opposition quietly abiding its time until the Constitution provides for fresh elections, when it will have a further opportunity of making its appeal to the electorate, is rarely, if ever, seen; certainly no party in power is prepared to credit its opponents with this negative virtue. Possibly, therefore, an Opposition, if, whatever it does, it is to be accused of plotting, feels obliged to live up to its reputation, and thus a premium is put on political plots in the East. Nevertheless, the impartial observer finds it difficult to believe all the plot stories that are now being circulated by the Turkish Government, if only because each one bears the familiar tag that the British are at the bottom of it. We have no means of knowing whether the ex-Sultan Wahid-ed-Din, who is sixty-four years of age, is pining for the flesh-plots of Yildiz Kiosk; but it is very obvious that Great Britain is far more interested in the peaceful development of a progressive Republic than in an upheaval likely still further to prejudice the economic situation in Turkey. The ordinary Briton, therefore, will be tempted to wonder whether the guilt of the alleged plotters, be they ex-Sultans or merely Opposition leaders, is more real than that of the British Government. The one thing that does impress him is that the Turkish authorities appear to display far more aptitude for manufacturing or discovering conspiracies than for setting Turkey on her feet again. The surest way of preparing the ground for plots is for a Government to prove itself unequal to the task of lifting the country out of the economic and financial mire into which it has drifted.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Free Trade.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain may not yet be turning in his grave, but at least, metaphorically speaking, tributes are daily being laid on his tomb. The cause of Free Trade is by no means dead, but without question it is weakening. Even the Labour Party, which has been commonly supposed to hold to the doctrines of Cobden in this matter, last week showed signs of a fresh effort to grapple mentally with the problem of Preference, and as a result of this reviewing twenty Labour Members voted with the Government. What the country thinks of the proposals of Imperial Preference it may be difficult to state precisely, but at least in Ayr, where the Liberals had an extremely capable candidate in Mr. Pringle, the inference is that the cry of Free Trade can no longer hold the people.

Of course the Liberal Press is extremely indignant with these twenty Labour "ratters." If the plank of Free Trade is beginning to crack, on what, indeed, shall the cause of Liberalism stand? It is almost pathetic to note the invitation of the *Daily News* to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald to state frankly, "as a matter of great public importance," what is the Labour Party's policy on Free Trade—pathetic, because the matter is not now one of great public importance: it has already and irrevocably been decided.

There are Liberals who are aware of this; and six of them voted with the Government. But as yet there is no sign that the Liberal Press recognises the irrestible trend of the times.

British Goods.

The appeal which the Federation of British Industries has made to the Government to launch a campaign which shall persuade people to buy British goods has been variously received. Some, judging the matter to be purely one of patriotism, have welcomed the proposal with open arms; some have praised it with the proviso that the F.B.I. should declare itself openly in favour of Protection; some, viewing the proposition from the angle and experience of Wembley, doubt its feasibility; while others deny that it is wrong always to buy in the cheapest available market.

While disclaiming any sort of expert knowledge on the subject, one is forced to the conclusion that an industry or a group of industries which depends for its appeal to the people on a publicity campaign has something not temporarily but radically wrong with it. After all, "British goods" are not a sort of quack medicine or sensational journal or motor-car that can, by expert advertising, be foisted upon an undiscerning populace. The salvation of British industries must surely come from within; it is the fact of the British quality of goods, not of their British nomenclature, which must be the determining factor. It seems strange to point to the number and the expense of our unproductive unemployed and to remark that if only British goods were to be more widely purchased, these things would not be so. Very agreeable, no doubt, to contemplate the exercise of a public habit to buy British rather than foreign goods, but while we employ the capitalist system, which is an international system, it is difficult to exclude the wares of those merchants who, for instance, constitute a large portion of the Import Section of the London Chamber of Commerce—a body that has actually engaged counsel to fight the manufacturers before the Committee under the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Publicity to advertise and to subsidise particular industries whose failure has already been advertised by the number of men upon the dole is not a very hopeful prospect, to say the least if it.

France and Britain.

Once more the central interest of political things has shifted from domestic to foreign affairs, or, as one says nowadays, from Mr. Churchill to Mr. Chamberlain. To the Foreign Secretary's evident intention to stand as closely as possible to France there is naturally—seeing the international tendencies of part of the Labour Party and the cosmopolitan tendencies of part of the Liberal Party—a certain opposition. Again and again does the pacifist objection to all that any French Government may propose manifest itself; again and again does the old and impossible suggestion that we shall as one Empire live alone show its stupid or entirely commercial head. It will, however, be early enough to examine the real merits of these objections to the European Pact when Mr. Chamberlain explains what he has done to the House of Commons.

Reforming the Press.

In the *Morning Post* recently Mr. Strachey, Editor of the *Spectator*, and Sir John Foster Fraser have been arguing upon the demerits and the merits of the modern Press. Mr. Strachey, whose honesty is sufficiently testified by the fact that he, like Mr. Baldwin, has a son who is a Socialist, fires his heaviest guns against the "colouring" of news matter: Sir John retorts by saying that modern newspapers contain exactly the kind of thing that the modern generation wants. No doubt both are right, and the fact that we have not yet been able to produce a newspaper which is neither "heavy" with impartial news nor suspiciously full of tendencious matter rather suggests that all this talk about "the evils of the Press" is so much waste of time. A democracy, with its inevitably superficial education, having been formed, it was equally inevitable that a tolerated plutocracy should impose its will upon it. In other words, our social system explains the nature of our newspapers.

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Central Cooling.

It is said that only one office in London was happy last week during the heat wave—Bush House. There, it appears, a system of central cooling has been established, which brought the temperature down from 84 to 72 degrees. The water supply is derived from an artesian well, enters an iced tank, and then, instead of journeying through the ordinary radiators, is carried round the walls of the rooms in small pipes. With ordinary radiators, it is said, the water would have to be reduced to freezing-point first, but with a "grid" of small pipes, central cooling seems to be perfectly feasible. Of course, it makes all the rooms of the same temperature—a fact that applies equally to warmth and to "coolth." But to read of this system certainly made the coatless worker in other parts of London but a little more sticky with envy.

The Theatres.

For the occasional visitor to London who might be inclined to disbelieve it, one must say emphatically (and gratefully) that it is yet possible to escape the almost ubiquitous work of Mr. Noel Coward. The opera season at Covent Garden, the Italian part of which has just begun, appears to be a success; there is a Pirandello season at the New Oxford (it began last night); the Beggar's Opera" has for a time succeeded Tehekhov at Hammersmith; "Cæsar and Cleopatra" is still running, and, in short, there is a better choice of entertainments in London than there has been for some time.

The main interest at the moment is upon the Italian dramatist, Pirandello, who has been fairly well "boomed" in our Press, and, according to good and various judges, deservedly so.

CAUCASIA AND COMMUNISM.

The anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society was held at 74, Grosvenor Street, on June 11, when Mr. George Young delivered an address upon "Caucasia and the Communists," Sir Charles Yate being in the chair. The lecturer divided the important peoples of the Caucasus into the Georgians, the Armenians, the Tatars of Azarbaijan, and the Russians. From the material point of view, he said, there could be no question that the lot of these peoples was better under the Soviet régime than it was under the Tsars. Excepting possibly the Georgians —and even in Georgia the mass of the people, the peasantry, were in favour of Moscow—these people were prepared to fight for the continuance of the Soviet system. The last Georgian rising, which was artificially prepared, had been repressed with terrible severity, and in Georgia the dreaded institution of the Che-ka, which elsewhere in the federated Socialist republics had been abolished, was still in existence. Of Armenia, the lecturer thought that if Russo-Turkish antagonism developed there was some chance of the creation of a larger Armenia. In Baku, he said, the condition of the workers, which before the War had be appalling, was much improved. The expropriation of the pipe-line shareholders had been used for the establishment of better houses on the hills of Baku. The expansion of Communism would not be into Europe—though the spear-head of Moldavia showed what might develop in the relations between Russia and Roumania, which, he said, was holding Bessarabia down by force—but rather eastwards into Central Asia. There the policy was to have a nucleus of a communised people (e.g., the Usbegs) within Russian territory and to hope for the spread of Communist doctrines into the scattered groups without. Two policies were in conflict in Russia concerning the spread of Communism into other countries (a division which the lecturer parallelled by citing, from the history of British diplomacy the occasional conflict between foreign missions and foreign legations): the Foreign Office policy of Tchitcherin, and the Comintern policy of Zinovieff. Turning to Anglo-Russian relations, he said that whenever he had discussed this subject in Russia, he was met by an overwhelming obstacle in the belief on the part of the Russians that twenty-six commissars had been murdered by British troops in the Caucasus. This lie and libel was so prevalent in Russia that it would be an excellent thing, he suggested, if Britain were to appoint a Commission (to which Moscow would surely agree, if only for diplomatic reasons) which should go into the affair and remove this stain on the gallant British Army.

In the subsequent discussion, Mr. Malcolm Burr, Mrs. Harold Williams, Sir Louis Dane, Colonel Medlicott, and the Chairman took part.

HAIG GUDENIAN.

The Armenian composer, M. Haig Gudenian, gave his last concert in London last week, when, at Queen's Hall, he produced several of the pieces which he had already played in London for his violin *solo* with the assistance of Sir Henry Wood's orchestra and orchestration. Speaking broadly, this orchestration was not a success. It westernized the music, subjected it to a formal treatment which it does not support, and, from the executive point of view, overweighted M. Gudenian with a volume of sound against which his low toned fiddle could not compete. For instance, the delicacy of his "Passing Caravans" was practically destroyed, the "Wilderness of Savages" lost its essential monotony with the employment of various instruments, "Omar Khayyam" was effective only when its opening bars were sparsely filled in. On the whole, therefore, these Oriental compositions are better either with harp accompaniment or with none at all.

But Sir Henry Wood did considerably help M. Gudenian in certain things. He set out such things as "The Arab Boy," a dance from "Prophet Daniel," and a "Love Song" most deliciously for flute and fiddle and harp (other instruments having but little part). When M. Louis Fleury was playing his flute, M. Gudenian his fiddle, and the Misses Goossens their harps, one was in the impersonal East, so finely was the intensive detachment of these pieces suggested. It is in this representation of the moment that M. Gudenian has so much to teach us. He starts out of nothing and ends as abruptly. A puff of sound, hither, thither, and his image is complete. So little and so much of the East he gives us. Of his work one can indeed feel that it is "like snow upon the desert's dusty face lighting a little hour or two." One hopes that he is taking steps to publish his works in England, because they are fit things, not for memory only, but for knowledge.

K. W.

The Nizam of Hyderabad has contributed £500 for the relief of the widows and children of Moslem sufferers in the war in Morocco.

It is announced that the King of Italy has conferred the Order of the Annunziata on the Valiahd, Prince Mohamed Hasan, the Regent of Persia and brother of the Shah.

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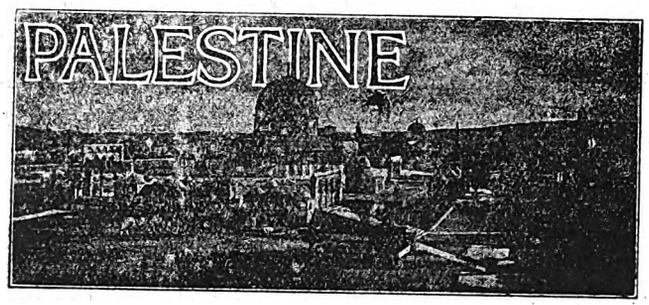
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, May 30.

The New High Commissioner.

There has been comparatively little quotable comment in the local Press on the appointment of Field Marshal Lord Plumer as High Commissioner for Palestine. The secret of the appointment had been well kept; hints—and quite accurate ones—which were dropped led to guesses which turned out to be wrong; and the news was only known here the day after the announcement was made in the English Press. Lord Plumer is, from Palestine's point of view, an utterly unknown and unplaceable factor; hence the paucity of comment. But there has been no mistaking the relief of the Arab sections of the population that a Jew has not been chosen; but (and one can hardly blame them) they have interpreted the presence of a Jewish head of the local Government as patent proof that Great Britain's primary interest in Palestine was in Jewish affairs; and now that the precedent has been broken, they are toying with the hope that Great Britain will now turn more readily to Arab interests.

The Jewish reception of the appointment has been anything but enthusiastic. Lord Plumer is no more than a name to the local Jews. They have an instinctive dread (due to Tsarist militaristic memories and, in part, to the unsympathetic nature of the British Military Administration after the War) of the professional military man. To them the military type is a compound of wooden unreasonableness and innate anti-semitism, entirely lacking the open mind and intellectual suppleness which alone can react sympathetically to the Jewish arguments in favour of a Jewish National Home. Also most of the local Jews had not quite given up hope of the appointment of a second Jewish High Commissioner, though a few had grasped the truth that their first one had done them more harm than good, owing to his hyperscrupulous avoidance of any tendency towards seeming to placate Jewish feelings at others' expense. The Jews have, they hold, a more solid grievance connected with the new appointment. The Mandate apparently includes a clause to the effect that the Mandatory Power shall consult the "Jewish Agency" on matters of importance which concern the "National Home." The person of the High Commissioner is a matter of supreme importance for the "National Home." Did the British Government consult the "Jewish Agency" or—what is temporarily acting as such—the Zionist Executive? They did not. Dr. Weizmann, the President of the Executive, confessed that he knew nothing of the appointment till he read of it in the English Press. The inference obviously is, so the local Jews maintain, that the British Government insists on adopting an entirely negative attitude to the Jewish claims to some measure of "political preference" in the administration of Palestine.

A third opinion worth recording is that held among those who are not so engrossed in immediate hopes of political change. It is one of satisfaction that an appointment has been made which in appearance at least, symbolises more or less a disciplinarian policy. The Samuel régime has been indispensable in that it has weathered with considerable success that awkward period during which Great Britain, having undertaken two almost irreconcilable duties (ably expounded by Mr. E. T. Richmond in past numbers of THE NEAR EAST), was grouping about for a working policy if haply such might be found. The diplomacy of the first High Commissioner has to a remarkable degree helped to reduce the country, if not to final peace, to something like political and financial equilibrium. How stable is this equilibrium time alone will prove. It is essentially a process of dogged, impartial "carrying on" that seems to be called for, and the stereotyping of the lines sketched out by the experience of the Samuel régime. Arab fears have been largely allayed, Jewish expectations reduced to practicable dimensions, and the door not completely closed to the rightful political hopes of the Arab majority. The (probably deliberate) openmindedness of the Mandatory Power during the past years and its lamb-like patience under the very impolite, not to say insolent, strictures of certain Palestinian parties, have tended to develop in these parties a swollen idea of their influence in high circles. It will do no harm to the cause of Palestinian peace if these elements encounter a less docile reception than that to which they have been accustomed.

Delayed.

The Creation of Afuleh.

We are promised a new inland Tel-Aviv. Plans have been made and work is soon to begin for a Jewish town at Afuleh in the Valley of Esdraelon. The scheme as at present outlined makes provision for a population of 30,000. One very much doubts the policy of increasing the number of town-living Jews: Tel-Aviv and Haifa are centres of Jewish town-industry quite enough to satisfy a country of twice Palestine's size; though there is certainly room for a small market-town at Afuleh to act as shopping centre for the swarms of small colonies near by.

The name of the new town is not yet decided upon. "Arbel" has been proposed, since an ancient Arbel is supposed to have existed somewhere near. But this does not meet with favour as not being Hebraic enough in colour nor sufficiently striking and imaginative in meaning. Nobody quite knows the meaning of Arbel. It might mean "the Four Gods," or "Town of Bel," which are far too heathenish.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Liubliana, June 12.

Congress of the Orjuna in Belgrade.

The Catholic Whitsun holiday, with its three days free of work, was made the opportunity for a great Congress of the Organisation of Yugoslav Nationalists—known as the *Orjuna*—at Belgrade. In spite of criticism, and even more irksome ridicule and several untoward incidents, this organisation has been steadily making headway since it was founded some three or four years ago. It now numbers 100,000 members, distributed all over Yugoslavia, and organised in nine provincial and 200 local organisations. Last year the Orjuna was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Liuba Leontitch as president. During the War, Dr. Leontitch proved himself one of the ablest as well as one of the most active workers for Yugoslav liberation and union. He was one of the small group of men who organised that invaluable financial help from the Yugoslav emigrants in North and South America which enabled the work of preliminary information and propaganda to be carried on at all. The Orjuna Congress in Belgrade opened with a great procession over ten thousand (one paper puts the figure at twenty thousand) strong with 184 banners, through the town. Special deputations were despatched to lay wreaths on the grave of King Peter the Liberator, and on that of the Serbian Unknown Soldier at Avala. The Congress was in every way successful. Several important resolutions were passed, and the final one emphasised once more that the organisation is for the Monarchy, for national unity and Yugoslavdom. The citizens of Belgrade received the thousands of guests with true Serbian hospitality and welcome, and most of the Press comment was cordially favourable.

Colonel Blair's Funeral in Slovenia.

On Sunday, June 7, Yugoslavia lost a sincere friend by the unexpected death of Colonel Johnson M. Blair, Military Attaché in Belgrade. Colonel Blair came to Yugoslavia in the spring of 1921, before the country had in any way recovered from the ravages of war in some parts, and the disturbing influences of a sudden change of régime in others. He at once took a warm interest in the development of the young State, but felt especially drawn to the Uplands of Slovenia, that beautiful outer court of the Alpine regions of Europe. He used to spend his holidays regularly at Bled or Trshitch, where he was well known and liked. Before his death he expressed the wish to be buried among the mountains of Slovenia. On Wednesday, June 10, he was duly laid to rest at Trshitch under the Karavanke. His coffin was received with military honours at Liubliana station, where a large and sympathetic crowd assembled to give a last greeting to the British soldier who loved Slovenia.

Sokol Athletic Competition.

An interesting competition between the pick of the Sokol athletes of all Yugoslavia will take place in Belgrade during the Vidovdan holiday, at the end of June. About a thousand competitors only will take part, but they will be the best the Yugoslav Sokols have to show, and the competition and display in connection with it will be worth a visit from any foreigners travelling in Yugoslavia about that date.

Travelling Facilities for Tourists.

It may be of interest to prospective visitors to Yugoslavia to learn that parties of not less than five tourists are entitled to half fares on the railway. Any traveller who stays on the Adriatic coast for a visit of not less than a fortnight in duration, is entitled to half fares on the railway both coming and going.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 10.

The Elections and the President.

The elections for the first Parliament under the new Republican Constitution have taken place with every appearance of tranquillity, and with the results anticipated. The President, Ahmed Bey Zogu, has secured the formal sanction of the people for the new régime; and so a new chapter in Albanian history opens.

In the absence in exile of all the more prominent of the Opposition leaders, it was not to be supposed that any of the lesser fry would venture to stand as candidates against the supporters of the Government. The elections accordingly have been contested solely on the question of personalities, and in these circumstances it is not surprising to hear that only a very small proportion of the electors took the trouble to record their votes.

The new Parliament was opened last week with a speech by the President which is significant only for his rather bitter allusion to the continued presence of Yugoslav troops in occupation of the Monastery of Sveti Naum and of other small districts N.E. of Scutari. This is interesting, in that it has been alleged more than once by his opponents that there was in existence a pact between Zogu Bey and the Yugoslav Government by which the former, in return for Yugoslav assistance in the recent revolution, promised to hand over Sveti Naum to Yugoslavia. In fact, the fear that Zogu Bey, in consequence of his obligations to the Serbs, would be forced to pursue a policy subservient to Yugoslav interests, seems to be in course of being belied by the facts. This is a satisfactory thing to record, for only by pursuing a nationalist policy, equally friendly, however, to all her neighbours, is there any hope of Albania's consolidating her national consciousness; and it is only on these lines that there will open the prospect of a reconciliation between those in exile and the present régime.

An Attempt at Reconciliation.

M. Eshref Frasheri, now President of the Senate and thereby Vice-President ex-officio of the Republic, has been attempting to revitalise the political "Clique," which it will be remembered came into being as a patriotic organisation at the time of the rebellion against Italian occupation,

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but afterwards degenerated into a kind of political freemasonry for the securing of jobs and was eventually split into two camps by Zogu Bey. Eshref's idea in reviving this body is to bring about a reconciliation between those members of the "Clique" like himself, who are friendly to Zogu Bey and those others belonging to the Opposition. Could this be accomplished part of the open wound in Albania's political body would be happily healed. The operation, however, is not without its danger; for the revival of a secret political freemasonry in the body politics would be a sad thing for Albania, as it has proved a sad thing in every country where such organisations flourish.

Parliamentary Groups.

The new Parliament is divided into a number of groups —but apart from the immediate friends of Zogu Bey, only the group representing the interests of the big beys has any definite personality. Among these are various members of the Vrioni family, Zogu Bey's father-in-law Shefqet Vlamasi, and the Foreign Minister and ad interim Minister of Finance, Mufid Libohova. The remaining groups—even the band of Catholic deputies from Scutari (usually a virile lot) are extremely colourless.

The National Issue and Credit Bank.

The most interesting event of the coming session will be the debates on the proposed concession for the formation of a National Issue and Credit Bank. The terms of the concession are not yet public, but it is understood that the Italian Bank "Il Credito Italiano" is to hold the majority of shares. There will probably be considerable opposition to the passage of the proposal on account of the power it places in the hands of a foreign group, but Albania cannot expect to be given the financial and credit assistance she requires except on terms which ensure a predominant control by those affording such assistance. Italy, too, would appear to have a clear right to the principal voice in the formation of an Albanian national bank, if foreign capital is to form its basis, for her interests in Albania are vital. Moreover, Albanians should remember that the commercial development of the country will necessarily mean that her commercial relations with Italy will become more and more important and absorb more and more of her total trade. In principle, therefore, Mufid Libohova's scheme appears to be based on common sense and sound politics. The alternative of an international institution would be likely to prove much less satisfactory in consequence of the intrigue and jealousies which are the invariable accompaniments of such institutions operating on fresh, hitherto unexploited ground.

British Officers for the Gendarmerie.

Lt.-Colonel Stirling, Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, has been appointed Inspector-General of the new Gendarmerie. He has nine British officers working under him as sub-inspectors, one at headquarters and two for each of the four territorial divisions. The decision to employ British officers in this work or organisation is a wise one. The British have a keen sense of responsibility to the Government they happen to serve, they have a natural gift of leadership, and more than any other nation, they appear able to detach themselves from political intrigue. Their presence in Albania, too, as independent witnesses of events will make it all the more difficult for foreign intrigue aiming at the dismemberment of Albania to deceive European public opinion by the publication of false reports.

GREECE.

Athens, June 8.

The Outlook in Samos.

Yesterday the news reached Athens of a revolutionary outbreak in Samos. The brother Yayades are amnestied brigands, who have on two previous occasions disturbed the peace of the island, but for the last four years had been living in law-abiding retirement on Patmos. The original member of the family to become an outlaw was George, the eldest brother, who began life as a gendarme—and a remarkably efficient one—in 1915. Owing to a difference over money, he quarrelled with a fellow-townsman, murdered him brutally, and took to the mountains. Joined by his brother Kostas, also a violent character, he committed various crimes of murder and robbery, until, at the time of the Salonika revolution in 1917, they had become the terror of the island. George was eventually killed in an engagement with the military. Kostas escaped with a third brother, John, to Eubœa, returned to Samos in 1918, was arrested, but later pardoned.

During the Revolutionary Government, the two brothers started an anti-revolutionary movement in Samos, and naval detachments had to be sent to restore order. Intervention at Athens again secured their pardon.

Lately, the judicial authorities of Samos had been examining the records of the brothers, and having found certain facts that required explanation (not, it seems, connected with the deeds for which they had been pardoned), summoned them to appear on June 6. The brothers appeared, but with an armed force of desperadoes. Landing at Karlóvasi on the evening of June 5, they marched all night across the island, and entered Vathy, the capital, on the morning of Saturday, June 6. Here they occupied the public buildings, banks, and so on, cut the wires, and having dispersed the handful of local gendarmerie, and expelled the civil authorities, sent a proclamation to Athens, demanding free elections. The story that the Italian flag was hoisted is untrue.

At Athens, a debate took place in the Chamber on the night of Saturday, in which some sympathy was expressed for the insurgents. Strong naval detachments left for Samos at midnight.

At the moment of writing, the revolt has not yet been quelled: but this can only be a matter of a few hours, as the rebels have not the support of the islanders, as a whole.

The Græco-Yugoslav Negotiations.

Apart from this outbreak, the dominant political interest is the breaking-off of the Græco-Serb negotiations. There is little doubt that they will eventually be resumed.

General News.

Certain measures were taken by the Government a fortnight ago to suppress the "free market." The immediate fall in the value of the drachma, which now stands about 292 to the £, may or may not have been the result.

The trial of several persons, accused of embezzlement, at the time of the Asia Minor disaster, has closed. All were acquitted.

On Sunday, May 23, a very well-organised and brilliant display was given in the Stadium by the Society of Greek ladies. Classical and modern Greek dances were performed in costume, before an immense audience. Anyone who knows the beauty and variety of the peasant costumes of Greece will appreciate the delight of such a spectacle beneath an Attic sky.

The weather this year has been remarkable. What in some ways was a record winter—the snowfall on the

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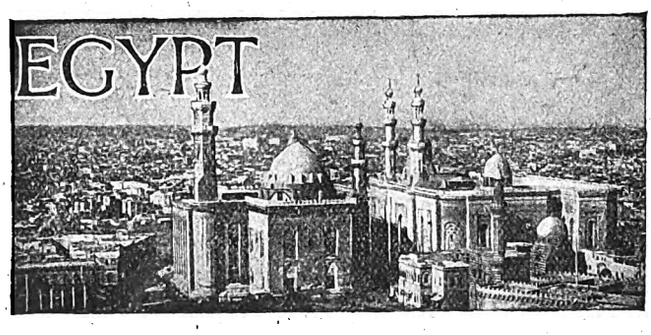
mountains up to the end of January was the smallest within living memory—has been followed by a record spring. At the present date (June 8) it is usual to have had at least a month's hot, settled weather behind us. This year cool, cloudy days and frequent showers have continued until the present time.

A fashionable bathing resort is rapidly growing at the little harbour of Vouliagméni, an hour's motor-drive from Athens. Lying in an almost land-locked bay, encircled by pine woods to the water's edge, with a sandy beach that shelves very gradually to swimming-depth, and a perfectly clear green-blue sea, Vouliagméni is as perfect a bathing-place as can be imagined.



Cairo, June 6.

The King's Birthday.

The King's Birthday was celebrated as usual by a garden party at the Residency. The grounds were in wonderful condition, and, considering the large number of residents who have already gone home, either permanently or for their summer leave, there was a much greater muster than one had expected. It was altogether a most enjoyable afternoon, and the only regret, which everyone felt and on which one overheard repeated remarks, was that this would be the last time Lord and Lady Allenby would entertain the community in this manner.

A propos of these King's Birthday shows, why it is that Britons in Egypt cannot do as other communities? Why is it that a loyal Briton can attend this gathering only if he has an invitation, whereas the French, American, Italian, to name only a few communities, have the entreé to their representative's residency on their great national fêtes? In the case of the latter a simple notice appears in the papers to the effect that the particular representative will receive members of the community on such and such a day—nothing more. Britons, on the other hand, cannot pay their respects unless they receive a formal invitation, the fundamental condition of receiving one of these coveted cards being that one must have signed in the book at least once during the preceding season. Thus it happens that because an Aide-de-camp—and even the best of Aides-de-camps is liable to make mistakes—may have omitted one's name from his list of eligible guests or because he has overlooked one's signature in the book, one is debarred from participating in the rejoicing of one's fellow-residents and in the presentation of loyal and humble respects to the King's representative on the great national day. Possibly there is a good reason for this formality dating back from bygone, less democratic times, when there may have been some justification, but to-day it is a positive farce, all the greater seeing that the British community is much smaller than those which keep open house on their national festivals with less space to do it in.

Residency Reception.

Last night the last official function under the present régime took place at the Residency. Lord and Lady Allenby entertained the Diplomatic Corps to dinner and then held a reception, which was mainly confined to Egyptians, there being a small sprinkling of senior British and foreign Government officials and leading British residents. The reception was a most brilliant affair, the gardens being beautifully illuminated. It is a very long time since such a representative Egyptian gathering has been seen at the Residency, and the presence of so many, who but a relatively short time ago would have shied at paying any visit to the Residency, was an eloquent demonstration of the changed order of things, which Lord Allenby's personality has produced. All elements were represented—with the exception, of course, of Zaghloul Pasha and the Wafd—and a most cordial atmosphere prevailed. Lord and Lady Allenby, the latter looking most attractive in grey, for a long time moved about amongst the guests, paying particular attention to the Egyptian element, and it was not until quite late that the gathering broke up.

The Birthday Honours.

The list of honours for Egypt seems to be very meagre compared with that for other territories. That the Sudan might have a better share than Egypt was quite expected, in view of what has happened in the Southern Provinces during the past year, but some surprise has been caused by the omission, with one notable exception, of decorations in connection with the Makwar Dam. There is also keen disappointment that no recognition should as yet have been awarded to one or two of the old residents, veritable institutions, without whom no public gathering would be complete, and who have contributed so greatly to the restoration of British prestige and the maintenance of cordial relations with the foreign as well as the Egyptian community.

The Sirdar's Murder.

The trial of the men accused of the murder of the Sirdar came to a close this week, and from the fact that the dossier has been sent to the "Mufti," it is known that there is at last one death sentence and practically little doubt that all have been found guilty.

That the sentences are more than deserved there is no doubt in the minds of all who have followed the case at all closely. Nothing could have been more impartial and more humane than the manner in which Ahmed Erfan Pasha, the President, directed this trial; no indictment could have been more deadly than that pronounced by the Procurator-General, Taher Pasha Nur; and no impression of complicity and guilt could have been more convincing than that made by the accused, particularly Mahmud Ismail, Shafik Mansur, Mahmud Rashed, and Ibrahim Mussa in the order named. It was a carefully prepared and carried out plot, due mainly to the brains and activities of the first-named, though it was conclusively proved that the other two mentioned as also the Enayat brothers had participated in most of the preceding outrages.

At the same time there are distinct indications that those now condemned, although they played such a pro-

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minent and active part in these outrages, are merely the front and intermediate lines, and that there have been at the back others higher-placed and more influential from whom the inspiration and encouragement and certainly the financial support must have come. The investigations continue in this direction, and are confidently expected to produce sufficient evidence for another criminal conspiracy trial in the autumn. It is to be hoped that those who but a short time ago were so keen on criticising the officials in charge of the case and in predicting the complete failure of their efforts now recognise how unfair and unkind as well as inopportune their diatribes have been. The present case is a triumph for the persistence, patience, and resourcefulness, which the officials of the various departments concerned, Taher Pasha Nur, the Procurator-General, and Mr. George Hughes, Chief Inspector of the Parquet, who have directed the judicial inquiry, Dr. Sydney Smith, whose scientific investigation have been so helpful, Russel Pasha and Ingram Bey of the Police, and Mr. Keown Boyd of the European Section of the Ministry of the Interior who have been in charge of the police work, have displayed in the face of deliberate discouragement and hindrance, and they all deserve well of both the British and the Egyptian community.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, Undated.

The Summer Season.

The number of visitors is already large, and the hotels should have a good season. The heights of Troödos continue to be the chief attraction. Here picnics and excursions are made to beautiful and romantic spots in the pine forests in all directions. The great Kykkou Monastery is among the chief. The picturesquely situated Monastery Troöditissa is another. Its magnificent surrounding scenery remains unchanged, but the old monastery itself has been altered very considerably since Sir Samuel and Lady Baker camped there in 1879, and the former wrote most of his book, "Cyprus as I saw it."

The present abbot, Jacobus, and his immediate predecessor have done much, adding considerably to the buildings, and reducing a debt which had accumulated during years, or centuries, of neglect. Kyrenia, on the north coast, which is the Cyprus Riviera, has become a very favourite resort. Besides sea bathing, there are charming expeditions to be made to most picturesque mediæval castles and ruins; on the opposite coast of Asia Minor, only 40 miles distant, towers the great Taurus range of mountains. Many little hotels have sprung up.

The Legislative Council.

It is not known when the Council will be dissolved, or when elections to the new Assembly will be held. The party which takes a chronically adverse view of the situation holds that the Greeks will be no better off under the new "constitution," since the accession of three new Greek members will be counterbalanced by the addition of three British. It seems, however, that Greek voters are not likely to repeat the folly of the last few years, which kept the mass of the electors from the polls, with the result that the Greek "leaders," while refusing to sit, or to stand as candidates themselves, complain that those elected do not represent the people! It is now generally admitted in some quarters that the late policy has been a puerile one, tending to bring ridicule upon the party, without the slightest good to their cause, but rather the reverse. It is likely that men of a more "level-headed" type than some of those who have represented the Greek Community, will come forward—men who have the courage of their opinions. The number of men of the right calibre and qualifications, who can view matters in more correct perspective have increased considerably in the last few years, and, if the Church and the Press use their influence aright, there should be a better atmosphere when nominations take place, and some members not all bound beforehand to stereotyped and obstructive views should be returned. The Greek members who have sat in the Council have been men of ability, but it cannot be said that they have always given whole-hearted attention to the real needs of Cyprus. Unless the new members work together in a right spirit of co-operation with the Government for island development, more years will be wasted in a futile clamour for changes, for which the time is by no means ripe, and which would benefit neither Cyprus nor Greece. [It is to be hoped that the Church will help to bring about a new and peaceful era. There are rumours that one of the Bishops may stand as a candidate, but if so it would probably be wiser that he should reconsider the matter.]

Cyprus Products.

It has long been a reproach to Cyprus that a ruinous practice of adulterating some of its products—many of them in themselves of excellent quality—has prevailed to a considerable extent, with the result that foreign importers have come to look askance at some of them. At one time serious harm was done to the wine trade, owing to the inveterate habit of village manufacturers of "over-plastering" their wines with gypsum in the belief that this would prevent them from turning sour and preserve their colour. This shut them out of France after there had been a good and profitable demand, during the phylloxera scourge. This, however, was greatly due to ignorance, and there has been much improvement, though the methods of manufacture remain crude and unsatisfactory. Much good has been done by a "Food and Drug Law" passed in 1905, under the provision of which a Government Analyst has examined many articles of consumption. But it seems that fraudulent practices have increased so much that a strong opinion now prevails that a more stringent measure is needed to cope with the evil, which brings Cyprus produce into disrepute, tends to lower prices, and causes a further decrease in exports at a time of abnormal increase in imports, synchronizing with a serious depression of trade all round.

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.

WILD TRIBES OF ASIA MINOR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Mr. Laurance Morton's article on the "Wild Tribes of Asia Minor," in THE NEAR EAST of April 23, is so full of misstatements that one is impelled to doubt the source of his information. For instance:—

(a) "Circassian, Georgian, Mingrelian and Daghistanli were converted to Islam."

This is true of the first and the last mentioned races, but the Mingrelians are Orthodox Christians, and so are most of the Georgians. A few tribes living in Georgia, and therefore roughly called Georgians, are Muslims, but

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in comparison with the Christians they are few.

(b) "They (i.e., the Kurds) are certainly neither Turk nor Tatar, but appear to be a blend of the two with a strain of Arabic blood grafted on to the original stock. Their language is more Arabic than Turkish."

If the origin of the Kurds be still a matter of controversy, the general consensus of opinion is that they are an Iranian race, and it has surely never before been stated that they are a blend of Arab, Turk and Tatar—a sort of gin and mixed vermouth in fact! As to their language, it is an Aryan one—resembling neither Arabic nor Turkish—and though like all Mohammedan tongues it has taken loan words from the Arabic, these are less in Kurdish than in its kindred language Persian.

(c) "In fact, they (the Lazes) have an idiom of their own, which on analysis, is a garbled form of ancient Greek."

As the Lazes are of Kartalian race and speak a Kartalian language, this is certainly an interesting discovery.

As regards the last paragraph of Mr. Morton's article I will now imitate him and leave the plains of sober fact and adventure into the foothills of fiction and guess-work.

He refers to the "Amali" tribe who work in the mines in the Heraklea region. This name is somewhat suspicious and would lead one to suspect that they are not a tribe at all, but simply "Amaleh" i.e., the Turkish word for "labourers" or "navvies." On this analogy, the village they come from has possibly a similar name to that marked on a map in Iraq in the early days of the War, "Buyut" (Anglice "houses")!—I am, etc,

T. J. EADIE.

Baghdad, May 21.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE UNCROWNED KING OF ARABIA."

"With Lawrence in Arabia." By Lowell Thomas. (London: Hutchinson. 21s. net.)

It was the present Governor of Jerusalem, we believe, who first called Colonel (now, of course, Mr.) T. E. Lawrence "the uncrowned King of Arabia." Since that phrase was invented, some eight or nine years ago, the extraordinary actions of the young Oxford scholar, whose career—at least for the purposes of the present discussion—culminated (or, should we say, declined?) in a year's work as Adviser at the Colonial Office, have steadily become better known owing to the "publicity campaign" which an American observer, Mr. Lowell Thomas, the author of this book, chose to launch upon the British and American peoples. That much of this campaign should have included those extremely tiresome, trivial, and tendencious details such as the offers that Colonel Lawrence had of marriage, his domestic habits, and so on, was, perhaps, inevitable; and probably we should count ourselves fortunate that amid so much unblushing padding, such effusive hero-worship, and such a *huboob* of superlative irrelevancies, we should still get so clear an estimate of what the young Irish archæologist was able, by uniting various Arab tribes, to accomplish by the side of Allenby's gallant men.

The time has possibly not yet come—and it may be a fruitless task—to gauge in terms of permanent values the extent of the performance of the Arabs under Lawrence. There are those who assert that others, the supply of gold being equal, could have done as well; there are those who believe that the Arabs whom Lawrence selected for the ægis of his bands—the Shereefian family—were "the wrong horse." But, however these things may be, there is absolutely no doubt of the genius, the courage, and the unfailing enthusiasm which be brought to bear on the Arab revolt against the Turks. From his first attack upon the port of Aqaba to his setting of King Faisal on the throne at Baghdad, he was heart and soul with his beloved Arabs. And the end of his influence upon the affairs of the Middle East is surely not yet.

Although Mr. Thomas's work is mainly of Lawrence's exploits, he gives credit to others, including, of the Arabs, the sons of King Hussein, Auda Abu Tayi, the Howeitat chieftain, Nouri Said and Jafaar Pasha of Baghdad, Malud Bey of Petra fame, and Sheikh Tallal of Tafas, and, of British officers, Colonel C. E. Wilson, Newcombe, Joyce, Dawnay, Bassett, Vickery, Cornwallis, Hogarth, and Stirling. It is good to have this ascription of credit, for an impression is too wide that Lawrence was always on the wrong side of our authorities.

Mr. Thomas's record is rather a series of vivid cinematograph pictures than a documental and consistent account of the Arabs' exploits. He rarely dates any incident, and although those who know the story from the fall of Jeddah and of Mecca, the battle of Abu el Lissal and the capture of Aqaka, the fight of Seil el Hasa and that round Petra, the operations round Deraa, to the taking of, and Lawrence's rule in, Damascus, may connect these events with the chronicle of the greater War, the general reader, one imagines, will get from this book rather a hazy idea of the continual letting off of "tulips" by this young Arab leader, of intrigues among Arabs nominally on the Turkish side, and, principally, of the various personal activities of Lawrence, than of any persistent military plan. And, very probably, Mr. Thomas will contend that this is the strictly accurate way in which to view the exploits of the heterogeneous, or at least, mixed, assembly of tribes on the flank of the Palestine forces. Strictly speaking, the Arabs' achievement during the War cannot be properly measured, and if their achievements before, during, and since the War are to be estimated—well, that is a very different story.

But the object of this book is, we take it, to tell more of Lawrence than of Arabia. All the superb photographs—many of them really magnificent reproductions—the chapters on Lawrence's co-adjutators, and so on, are designed to that end. That part of the book which does not concern Lawrence tells us, indeed, little that is not well enough known; and it cannot be said that Mr. Thomas has profoundly studied the Arabs. We gather the impression from him, for instance, that King Hussein represents the great virtue of "other worldliness," that the Wahhabis want "to abolish the pilgrimage to Mecca," that King Faisal is an "ardent prohibitionist." To the multitudes for whom this American author addresses his book, however, these slight blemishes will seem no detraction: nor, probably, will they notice the inadequacy of the one map that the book contains. Yet every reader may be grateful for this account of one of the most romantic movements and one of the most romantic men of our time. We would not end on a note of chaff, because in "With Lawrence in Arabia" there is, for those who can winnow, some excellent wheat.

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By SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER.

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The *Morning Post* Bombay correspondent states that after thirteen centuries in India, Parsee love of the homeland is shown by an offer of Sir Hormusji Adenwalla to raise 10,000 rupees, being half the cost of a statue of Firdousi, Persia's greatest poet, which will be placed in the grounds of the Parliament House at Teheran. Five thousand rupees have been given by Bombay Parsees. The remaining five thousand are anticipated from Parsees there and in the rest of India.

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Indian Affairs.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

It would be a mistake to flatter Mr. C. R. Das by assuming that the Notification suspending Reforms in Bengal is the culmination of a deeply laid scheme devised by him four or more years ago. It is the inevitable consequence of blind and unintelligent obstruction, inspired by racial animosity flirting with anarchy and terrorism. Probably the weakest point, in the campaign that he launched when he gave up his lucrative practice at the Bar, was the fact that he had no clear idea as to what he wanted; and he still does not know. His personal influence remains a very real thing, and this, in a country where persons are more important than policies, is probably the outstanding factor in the political situation in Bengal to-day. The reversion to pre-Reform government will not damage the good name of the British Raj; thanks to Mr. C. R. Das and his party it is firmly established in the minds of the simple that Government cannot do right until it has gone through "a change of heart," whatever that may mean. This is the first and last article in the creed of the Swaraj party and while this is the case, it is useless for Government to seek to justify its actions; for whatever it does will be wrong. Fortunately, there are moderate men in the country who have something to lose, and they are tiring of the turmoil and dislocation of the amenities of life which are the most obvious fruits of the Reforms on this side of India. The Bengali is an emotionalist, but he lacks staying power. He is tired of yearning, and shouting, and paying, for what? Nothing. He is back where he started. The internment of the terrorists has removed a real menace to his freedom of thought, speech and life, and the waning of the influence of Mr. C. R. Das since the suppression of the apostles of anarchy is a striking answer to his denial of any connection or active sympathy with them.

Mahatma Gandhi has passed through Calcutta this week on his way to continue in Western Bengal the tour of the districts which he undertook in the East after the recent Congress, and in spite of the drummings of the extremist Press his reception has been comparatively calm. The veneration with which he is regarded by most educated Indians is sincere, even though it is largely superstitious in character: and the further fact must be faced of the popularity of his non-material creed amongst communities which have attained to a high degree of industrial and economic organisation. The contrast between Gandhi and C. R. Das cannot be concealed by the wearing of khaddar and a rapt expression before the camera. Gandhi is an ascetic who, in spite of his journeys in a Rolls-Royce, has given up almost all of what is covered in this land by the expression "the pleasures of the world." He is probably unconscious of a certain vanity, but he has had good cause for it; his sincerity is now generally admitted by all parties, and such opportunism as he has shown is probably uncalculated; his title of Mahatma is not disputed even by the warmest supporters of his rival. He has, however, been displaced sooner than his predecessors by a shrewder leader, who realised that while the so-called politically-minded Indian will accept a doctrine of non-violence, he must have something to "get his teeth into" if he is to coalesce. Hence racial hatred as a policy, a further contrast between the two leaders; it has been said that it will take a generation to get over the obstruction that it has caused, but probably no generalisation will cover the whole truth. The agriculturalists have been but lightly affected, but they have been impressed by the freedom afforded to agitators to vilify Government and its servants; good government and time will remove the virus. But hatred bred in the bone is incurable.

The recent decision of the Corporation to take legal opinion as to its rights to remove a dead body from the centre of the meat market is a straw showing the direction of the political wind. A mob of butchers led, if not inspired, by a Mohammedan member of the Corporation dragooned the executive into standing by while the body of an alleged begging saint was buried where he had sat in life, over a drain by the meat stalls in the European Market. The Mayor, Mr. C. R. Das, whose time is normally fully occupied by political work, was absent from Calcutta, but on his return he had to concede a committee of inquiry. Their report is that the man was neither a Mohammedan nor a saint, but an ex-convict with a talent for effective begging; they therefore recommend the removal of the body. The Mohammedans in the Corporation will not accept this recommendation, however, and a frantic whip was sent to the swarajists for support to the Mayor's proposal to shelve the matter for legal opinion, which was duly passed. The lack of capacity to deal with such a situation surprises no one, but the excitement over a comparatively simple matter is another sign of the dissensions in the extremists' camp. Their censor kept the facts as to the quarrels in the last Congress out of the Press, but he could not conceal the fact of the unreality of the closing proceedings. The "selling" of the party whip in the present case is a sign of the progress of the malcontents.

There is probably no political significance in the action of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce in deciding that no forward contracts should be entered into for the next four months. It has already been pointed out in the Press that the Bombay mills are even worse off than Lancashire in regard to surplus stocks and the present resolution seems to arise solely from trading considerations. Khaddar is not sufficiently worn to affect the market seriously, and the only other political factor is probably the slowing-up of the recovery from post-War conditions and of the adjustment of over-trading, due to unrest and agitation. Certainly prices are high considering the heavy stocks that are being held and the small purchasing margin in the hands of the masses.

The present outlook is encouraging to those who are prepared to face realities. There is undoubtedly a reaction from the extremists among the town populations, and there are definite indications of a disinclination to subscribe to vague political organisations, the more so as it is realised that most of the money goes to maintain "workers". The family unemployed, all too numerous, have a first claim under the traditional system in Bengal. Dissensions amongst the extremists are becoming more open; the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and *Forward*, C. R. Das's organ, are engaged in an acrimonious public quarrel over the circulation of the latter, which is alleged to be only one third of that advertised as certified by a "Government auditor." Meanwhile Sir Surendranath Banerjea, the G.O.M. of Bengal, comes back as editor-in-chief of a new "liberal" group of newspapers and has a following which will subscribe to them; and the power of the Press to create public opinion is becoming more realised every year.

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BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

I write in an atmosphere of acute depression. Bombay is dependent upon cotton, and, unlike Calcutta, has no alternative industry. For nearly two years conditions have steadily become worse. Instead of the hoped-for gradual improvement, we can see only huge stocks, mills working at no profit or at a loss, and companies going to the wall owing to their inability to finance their business and their losses further. It is not always realised that, at a time when much of the rest of the world was in the depths of the post-War depression, India was still enjoying semi-boom conditions. Our period of depression commenced later, and it has taken us longer to experience the full results of our mistakes during the boom. We are in danger of becoming confused as between cause and effect. At times we forget that it is not the excise duty or the rate of exchange which have caused the present crisis; they are but unfortunate aggravations of it. The causes lie deeper. We are reaping the results of optimistic extensions and flotations, of reckless financing on short term loans, and of the wild speculation which was indulged in by literally everybody in Bombay during the days of prosperity and profits.

The local pundits, led by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, roundly blame the Finance Minister for the present crisis. By adopting 1s. 6d. as the figure for exchange in the Budget (says Sir Purshotamdas) an artificial credit of four crores of rupees is created which, in any case, will be wiped out by the loss to Government of income tax and super-tax. The result of this adoption of 1s. 6d. as the exchange rate has been to handicap all industrial efforts and to make money or credit scarce for all. Even the poor peasant obtains less for his crops and, as his wants are mainly food, he obtains no compensating advantages from cheaper imports. In 1920 Government fixed the ratio of the rupee to gold. Gold was imported to the abnormal extent of 73 crores last year, yet this does not in the least degree relieve the monetary stringency. The gold is hoarded, as buyers cannot tender it to the Currency Office except at Rs. 10 to the sovereign. The Indian Merchants Chamber ask for the immediate appointment of a Currency and Exchange Committee. Meanwhile Government have decided there is no necessity to issue their proposed 12 crore loan this year, which is just as well, as, if issued, it would certainly be a failure under present conditions. Sir Basil Blackett's critics appear inclined to forget, in their present anxiety and resentment, the splendid services he has rendered to the country's finances. Yet that his abilities and financial acumen are appreciated is evidenced by the satisfaction and almost enthusiasm with which one hears discussed the probability of his being offered and accepting the Governorship of the Imperial Bank of India.

Bombay is almost becoming callous through adversity, and little more than passing notice has been taken of the failure of one of the largest local boom-time flotations, although over a million sterling of subscribed and loan capital is involved and nearly three-quarters of a million are irretrievably lost.

We find mild consolation these hot days in the fact that politically at least the Presidency is at rest. Mr. Gandhi has temporarily left us for Bengal, where he cuts a rather poor figure as a lieutenant of the much less likeable and distinctly more aggressive Mr. Das. Since his release from jail Mr. Gandhi's power and influence have waned even in this Presidency, and he himself appears to be tired of active political life.

The redoubtable Mr. Shaukat Ali is busily occupied on behalf of Sultan Ibn Saud. Government have done all in their power to place before intending pilgrims to Mecca the very great dangers they run in attempting the Haj this year. The Egyptian Government apparently agree with the Government of India, and incidentally with a very large body of Moslem opinion in India, that the pilgrimage is most unsafe this year and should not be attempted. Despite this (or possibly because of it) Mr. Shaukat Ali, armed with a letter of guarantee from Ibn Saud, has most actively canvassed the large number of intending pilgrims; and, largely on his assurances, two steamer loads have already left to brave disease, famine, and the very real dangers of the route. While assuring his illiterate co-religionists that there is no scarcity or danger, Mr. Shaukat Ali is collecting funds to relieve the distress in and around Mecca. An eminent Mohammedan publicist has asked Mr. Shaukat Ali and his friends themselves to accompany and assist the next batch of pilgrims, and now awaits his excuse for avoiding the discomforts and dangers into which he has pressed others.

We have been interested, if not much surprised, to read of Sir George Lloyd's appointment to Egypt. His work as Governor of Bombay is perhaps too recent for us to be able to view all of it in a proper perspective. We know and remember him as a firm and resolute man who knew what he wanted and saw that he got it. He was not perhaps too popular with the Indian community, who considered him a trifle too brusque at times, but his handling of the political situation over a protracted period, without recourse to extraordinary powers, at a time when there were disorders in every province of India, is remembered with admiration and gratitude by all. His widespread development schemes financed by large loans are not thought of quite so enthusiastically in these days of financial stress. The reclamation of Back Bay has gone too far and has cost too much to be abandoned, but other schemes will be shelved, as far as possible, until better times.

Bombay, May 29.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Indian Coal Trade.

The *Statesman* (Calcutta) publishes a summary of the Report of the Indian Coal Committee, now under the consideration of Government. The Committee consider that the best Indian coals can compete in any market in the East, provided that only the best coals are exported and that the overseas purchaser can be certain of the quality of the coal actually delivered. "Purchasers overseas are profoundly dissatisfied with the quality of almost all the Indian coal received by them of late years, and most of it has been equally unsatisfactory as regards condition. A goodwill which has taken years to build up may be lost in a moment and the unscrupulous sellers, who represented second-class coals as first-class, have effectually injured the reputation of all Indian coals, by whomsoever exported." Indian coal can seldom hope to compete in overseas markets unless its price is reduced. To meet the former difficulty, the Committee recommend the establishment of a Grading Board, and a system of inspection to include an authoritative certificate of the grade and condition of each consignment of export coal: to meet the latter, the raising of the rebate on export coal from 25 to 37½ per cent. They recommend that the use of the Grading Board should be voluntary and not compulsory; but that rebates, and preferential treatment as regards waggons, should be restricted to coal covered by the Board's certificate, thus providing a direct incentive to collieries to participate; while an overseas purchaser would be unlikely to accept coal not covered by its certificate, because the refusal of any colliery to submit its coal for grading would be a primâ facie admission of inferior quality.

The *Statesman* also prints the views of some of the leaders of the coal industry. The general opinion seemed generally to "hover on the borders of satisfaction"—that the recommendations of the Committee, if carried out, would, in process of time, enable the trade to work out its own salvation, but that a real brightening of prospects was beyond the powers of any Committee: "I think," said one of those interviewed, "we have got to go through a very bad time: I think things will be a little worse before they are any better." The grading question was approved in theory, but the rather curious objection was raised that it "would do harm to mines producing inferior material"—apparently because it would declare that material to be what it actually is and prevent the possibility of its being passed off as something better—the exact point raised by

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the Committee. As regards a reduction in the cost of raising, the "leaders'" remarks were much more to the point. One said that the trade "was in a cleft stick," because, if cost of production was to be reduced, the first essential was to increase the output: and the output was already greater than the demand. Another said that it would be necessary to reduce production before they could hope to increase it; since, at present, coal was often stacked for as long as six months, thereby losing "virtue" and becoming liable to break under transport and handling, so that foreign consumers got a false idea of the real qualities of Indian coal. To reduce output would reduce the time during which coal was held in stock pending shipment, and the product would then be shipped in much better condition. Thereafter, the favourable impression produced would result in increased demand that would justify greater output. It was also explained that the question was not really one of competition, but one of recapturing lost markets. To do this, it would be necessary to hold out extra inducements to customers, and "when the markets are recaptured those inducements would not be necessary": again, a rather curious pronouncement and one that seems to suggest acceptance of the Committee's recommendations while times are bad, to be followed by a lapse from them when times improve.

Rupee Loan.

In his Budget speech, the Finance Member anticipated the probability of raising a rupee loan of about twelve crores (approximately nine million pounds); but it is announced that, since then, the Ways and Means position in India and in London has improved to such an extent that no loan will be required: the Government of India will confine their loan operations this year to the conversion of early maturing bonds, on terms that will be announced in due course.

India's Trade with Ceylon.

The Review of the trade of India in 1923-24 shows, says the *Ceylon Observer*, that the value of the total trade with Ceylon was approximately the same as in the preceding year. The import of copra into India was 26 tons only, compared with 100 tons a year ago and 7,500 tons in 1920-21: while the import of Ceylon tea was double that of 1922-23. In previous years, Ceylon was the largest purchaser of Indian rice: but, in the year under review, though her purchases increased by 7 per cent. over the previous year's total, she yielded pride of place to Germany.

The N.W.R. Strike.

When the last mail left India, there had been no material alteration in the situation, though it appeared to be steadily improving. The extreme Labour wing, represented by the so-called "All India Trade Union Congress," a body that has, for some time past, been in communication with the Red International of Trade Unions at Moscow, has called for immediate Government interference, and this demand has been backed by some of the vernacular and Anglo-vernacular newspapers. One of the leading dailies among the latter presents its readers with its own version of the struggle; which, it will be remembered, in fact began owing to the dismissal, after repeated warnings, of a persistently insubordinate workman at Rawalpindi. This dismissal is represented as "abrupt "and "summary," as "an act of petty vindictiveness" and "the result of atrocious petulance": and the refusal of the Agent to accept the offer of "arbitration" on this act of "victimisation" is described as "hiding behind the clap-trap of prestige." "On account of the transient wave of fatigue overspreading the country, the miseries imposed by meddlesome mandarins upon forty thousand of their fellow creatures have failed to attract sympathetic attention outside the area of suffering. . . . English workmen would in corresponding circumstances have precipitated a stunning crisis, but it is the unique distinction of Indian strikes that incidents of violence and sabotage are insignificant." The paper mentions "some intimate jargon among the Indian Civil Service about the Punjab head"—which is, in fact, a phrase used to describe the effect of the fierce heat of the Punjab on one's memory for small matters—and says "the capital organ of the Punjab official tends to swell into monstrous dimensions. Theirs is not to reason why, theirs not to make reply, it is theirs to dash like bulls in the china shop." The strike is stated to have been due to "the foolish and persistent insolence" of the officials, who "follow a policy of provocation and hide-bound impudence and spurn the Union's offer of conciliation": and the usefulness of Government intervention is dismissed on the ground that "a State based upon the illicit doctrine of hollow prestige is not likely to rush in with counsels of fair play."

The Haj.

Telegraphic information has been received that King Ali has carried out his threat of bombarding Rabegh, and that the first pilgrim ship to leave India for that port has put into Port Soudan in consequence. Meanwhile Shaukat Ali has written to the Indian papers, expressing thanks to God that the ship left, and calling upon intending pilgrims to come to Bombay to join two other ships that were "waiting for pilgrims and ready to sail within a week." He has also issued an appeal to Indian Moslems to subscribe "liberally and immediately" in relief of the distress in Mecca. The Central Khilafat Committee (of which Shaukat Ali is President) "will receive donations and remit collections by each pilgrim boat"; though subscribers were told they could, if they so preferred, "send their contributions through their own agents." The latter alternative is certainly called for, in view of the enormous misappropriation, a few years ago, of funds subscribed by Indian Moslems for the Turks. Very large amounts were subscribed to the "Angora fund," "Smyrna relief fund," and "Aeroplane fund," to say nothing of a number of minor objects of charity; out of which a total of nearly twenty lakhs of rupees (about £130,000 at the rate of exchange then current) was found, on inquiry, to have been invested—and lost—in the private business of one of the officials of the Central Khilafat Committee. The discovery of the facts, after a lengthy period of silence followed by shuffling and evasion, aroused considerable indignation at the time; though it is only fair to say that this appeared to be directed less at the moral failure of the "bailee" than at his practical failure to allow his friends to have a share in the swag. It is, unfortunately, only too true that, in India, anyone through whose hands money passes is tacitly allowed a commission, though it is not considered to be playing the game if, when a large sum sticks, it is allowed all to stick to a single palm. Mr. Gandhi's pronouncement on this scandal—if one may so style it—was much to the point: he exhorted the charitable to continue to subscribe on the ground that, by so doing, they acquired just as much personal merit when their contributions were embezzled as when they duly reached their objective.

Through "Extremist" Spectacles.

The *Bombay Chronicle* says that the Public Services Commission is one of the chief subjects on which Lord Birkenhead and Lord Reading are "furtively confabulating." The paper recalls the fact that the Government of India Act provides for the establishment of such a Commission, and that the idea did not, as commonly believed, owe its inception to the Lee Commission. The paper expresses the fear that "the Indian public" may find itself, at any moment, presented with an unsuitable Commission as a *fait accompli*: "the indecent haste with which the Government attempted to satisfy the clamours of the Services should prepare us for another prompt and effective action towards their further entrenchment." In a self-governing democratic country such a Commission would be proper: in the present political condition of India it is one "that should be resisted with all the forces at our command: at best it is inopportune and at worst it is a machinery devised to secure the popular irresponsibility of the Services in opposition to the growing aspirations of the nation." The public cannot acquiesce in the appointment of a Public Services Commission so long as Government "prolongs the period of its paternal rule by obstructing political advance and so long as recruitment

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in England is not stopped instead of being stimulated." But, if there must be a Commission, the paper thinks it essential that its appointment should be vested in the Governor-General in Council, not in the Secretary of State, and that "the control of the All-India Services should pass entirely to the Commission," which should have an Indian majority and an Indian chairman, "who have been distinguished for fearless and independent public service—not flunkeys, British ignoramuses, and superannuated bureaucrats." No British civil servant in India should be allowed to become a Governor or Executive Councillor, and "flimsy complaints in this respect cannot be considered by the Commission," who should also not be allowed to "meddle in provincial affairs and sit in perpetual judgment between an embittered and powerful service and an effete Minister." The immediate problem, however, is not that of considering the functions that should be accorded to a Commission that is being "secretly constructed away from the glare of public opinion, but that of definite and total rejection of another step-motherly body whose constitution is as premature as its development is fraught with disaster."

A "Saint's" Burial.

The present mail brings remarkable details of an incident that has been agitating Calcutta in general, and the Corporation of Calcutta in particular, for some time past. A Mohammedan *fakir* died, some time ago, in one of the passages of the New Market building; and it was represented that Mohammedan law and custom demand that a Mohammedan holy man must be buried at the spot where he died: and, further, that when—as in this case—miraculous powers were attributed to the deceased, permission must be accorded for the erection of a shrine over his grave. The (self-appointed) spokesman of those expressing this opinion—himself a member of the Corporation—was asked what would happen if a *fakir* died in the middle of the public street: and the answer was, that he would have to be buried there. The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation—a Bengali gentleman—was called upon to give orders; but was told that, if there was any further delay, the burial would take place irrespective of the Corporation's decision. On this threat, the attitude of the Chief Executive Officer became, as expressed by himself in a published note, "one of convenience": since he preferred to "handle the situation by tact and peaceful persuasion" rather than to "call for police aid" to prevent the burial from taking place. "A quick decision was necessary. I therefore took upon myself the responsibility of not preventing by force the burial inside the Market," in the hope of being able to settle the matter peacefully "when the excitement of the day was over." After effect had been given to this "decision," the Chief Executive Officer approached the leading local Mohammedan divines, who declared that there was nothing in Islamic law or custom demanding that a *fakir* should be buried at the spot where he died. They also "seemed to be fairly unanimous" that, if the burial had taken place without permission, there would be no religious objection to exhumation of the body and its removal elsewhere; though, not unnaturally, they seem to have been inclined to look upon the Chief Executive Officer's "decision" as amounting to the grant of permission. At this point, however, the Chief Executive Officer's efforts seem to have stopped. The Corporation succeeded in deferring any decision about the removal of the body by the simple expedient of adjourning a motion in favour of such a course; and, so far as is known at present, the *fakir's* grave remains, a cause of obstruction and an object of veneration, in the Market passage.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Weather and Crops.

The Indian Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta, has cabled to the High Commissioner for India that the monsoon is weakening on the West Coast, is strong in the South, and strengthening in the north of the Bay of Bengal. The forecast for 1925 is, normal or deficient in the Peninsula, normal or in excess in north-east India, deficient in north-west India. There has been light rain in the Punjab and parts of the United Provinces and dry weather in Bengal, except in parts of the north and east. Rain in Bihar and Orissa has considerably damaged wheat and dal (lentils) for threshing. The fourth wheat crop estimate for India is 8,802,000 tons, the final rape and mustard crop estimate 1,173,000 tons, and the final linseed crop estimate 541,000 tons.

India Air Service.

The Secretary of State for Air made an important statement in the House of Commons on June 11, in reply to a question. He said that the Government have approved in principle the institution of a civil aeroplane service between Egypt and India, in replacement of the fortnightly service between Egypt and Iraq now carried on by the Royal Air Force. A concrete scheme for a service, to be operated weekly each way between Kantara and Karachi is under consideration, and Civil Aviation undertakings have been invited to submit proposals for such a service. The Minister added, "I regard the development of this important link in our Imperial communications as a matter of urgency and, while it is impossible as yet to give an exact date for its inauguration, I am most anxious that it should, if possible, come into operation during the winter of 1925-26." In reply to supplementary questions, Sir Samuel Hoare said that it was the intention of Goverment to grant a subsidy: and that the service would not be started until after the provision of enough landing grounds on the route to make it quite safe.

Commenting on this statement, *The Times* says that, in order to justify itself, it is essential that the new service should eventually become a commercial success: to secure which, a high standard of regularity is necessary, entailing a great deal of careful preliminary thought and a high degree of business ability. The Imperial Airways Company has suffered, so far, in that their routes are short and exposed to competition with long established and highly developed systems of ground transport: this will be the first opportunity of establishing air transport where both these handicaps are absent. The immediate effect of the institution of the service will be a saving of from five to seven days in the carriage of mails and passengers between England and India: and, with the coming of night flying, which is now only a matter of time, the gain will be considerably greater.

Obituary.

Lord MacDonnel, whose death occurred on June 9, was born in 1844, and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1865. Among the important posts held by him in India were those of acting Chief Commissioner of Burma, Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, acting Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Member of the Governor-General's Council, and Lieutenant Governor of (what are now known as) the United Provinces. He was President of the Indian Famine Commission of 1901, the report of which remains the standard authority on the subject. He left India in 1901 and was Under-Secretary of State in Ireland from 1902 to 1908, resigning in the latter year and being raised to the peerage. He is said to have been the first member of the Indian Civil Service, since Lord Lawrence, to receive a peerage.

Sir Basil Blackett.

Sir Basil Blackett left London on June 11 for India, to resume his appointment as Finance Member of the Governor-General's Council. It has been freely rumoured that he contemplates early retirement from official life in order to take up the Governorship of the Imperial Bank of India; but *The Times* says that this rumour may be dismissed as without foundation, and that there is every reason to believe that Sir Basil will complete his term of office. Among the developments to which he will direct his energies, says *The Times*, are the question of fixation of a gold value to the rupee and of the transfer to the Imperial Bank of India of much of the currency work now carried on by Government.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

June 18, 1925 (New Style).
June 5, 1925 (Old Style).
Julkaada, 26, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 26, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hon. Lady Lindsay left Constantinople last week for Paris en route for London.

M. Nicolas Mishu, Second Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on June 10 from Paris.

Princess Nicholas of Greece and the Princesses Elizabeth and Marina have arrived at 25, Portland Place, W.1.

Professor James Breasted, the well-known Egyptologist, arrived at Southampton from New York in the Homeric last Saturday.

Captain and Mrs. J. A. Lynch have returned from India to 21, Cliveden Place, S.W.1, which will be their permanent address.

The Master of Elibank and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray have returned to 187, St. James's Court, from Scotland.

Sir Basil Blackett left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. Naldera at Marseilles for Bombay.

Sir Geoffrey Archer arrived in London last week from the Sudan, and he and Lady Archer are staying for the present at 45, Pont Street.

Viscount Inchcape left London last Thursday night for the Clyde to attend the trial on the following day of the new P. and O. steamer Chitral.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Napoleon Reiter, of Bucharest, and Henriette, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Moses Gaster, of Mizpah, 193, Maida Vale, W.9.

Viscount Elmley will leave England in August on a tour round the world. He will reach Burma in the New Year, and spend three months in India before returning home.

Professor B. Petruniyevitch, the eminent palæontologist, of Belgrade University, is shortly returning to Yugoslavia after several weeks' research work at the British Museum.

Ferid Bey, the newly-appointed Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, is due to arrive in London tomorrow. He will be accompanied by his wife and daughter.

A dinner of welcome to Dr. Philip Hartog, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dacca, will take place at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, to-day (June 18) at 7.30 p.m. Sir Henry Wheeler will be in the chair.

The will of Dr. Reginald Stephen Copleston, of St. John's Road, Putney, S.W., for some years Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India and Ceylon, and prior to that Bishop of Colombo for 27 years, an authority on Buddhism (net personalty £7,242) has been proved at £7,377.

The Crown Princess of Roumania and her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, accompanied by Madame Plagino, lady in waiting, arrived in London last Friday, and will stay for two months at 50, Grosvenor Street, the residence of the Roumanian Minister, which has been placed at their disposal. The Minister being at present in Geneva, the Princesses were received by M. C. D. Laptew, Counsellor, and M. N. Mishu, Secretary of the Legation.

Sir Walter Becker, who has recently placed at the disposal of Signor Mussolini a million *lire* for philanthropic objects, in connexion with the twenty-fifth anniversary of King Victor's reign, has been a firm believer in the value to Italy of the Fascist Prime Minister's achievements. Sir Walter and Lady Becker live in Turin, and are well known for their generous support of educational and other causes in Great Britain.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Canon H. S. Stephenson, M.A., formerly Chaplain at Lahore, India, has been nominated to the vicarage of Methwold, in the diocese of Ely—patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Mr. J. G. P. Cameron (of the Indian Telegraph Department) and Mr. Nigel F. Paton (representing the Indian Radio Telegraph Co.) have been invited to serve on the Imperial Wireless Committee as representatives of India. The first meeting will be held on June 23.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Justice John Guy Rutledge to be Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon, in succession to Sir Sydney Robinson, who will retire on December 3.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Jyotis Ranjan Das and Mr. Robert Edward Otter, to be Puisne Judges of the High Court of Judicature of Rangoon in the vacancies to be created by the retirement of Mr. Justice Radford Young on September 9 and the promotion of Mr. Justice Rutledge respectively.

OBITUARY.

We have to record with regret the death of Colonel James Molesworth Blair, D.S.O., C.M.G., British Military Attaché at Belgrade. Born in July, 1880, and educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford, he volunteered for the South African War and obtained a Regular Commission in the Black Watch. At the outbreak of the Great War he went to Petrograd as Assistant Military Attaché; in 1921 he was appointed Military Attaché in Yugoslavia. He received his colonelcy in 1923. For some time past Colonel Blair has been in indifferent health; and was due to return to England this summer. Both he and Mrs. Blair were popular members of the British community in Yugoslavia, where, as our Liubliana Correspondent testifies, they had also many friends among the Yugoslavs. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Blair and her only son in their bereavement.

Where to stay in the East.

Write for particulars of attractive offer for advertising Hotels on this page.

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Grand Hotel de la Poste.
Marina Palace and SavoyHotel

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THE NEAR EAST.

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Telegrams : "EASTAPROX, ESTRAND, LONDON."

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1925.

YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE.

The breakdown in the negotiations between Yugoslavia and Greece for a treaty of alliance, however unfortunate in itself, need not be taken too seriously. Friendly relations between two countries can exist without a written agreement, and it is by no means out of the question that a settlement will be reached all the sooner, as a result of the publicity given to the details of the negotiations. Both the subsequent course of events in Greece (where a Ministerial crisis, although not primarily connected with the Government's attitude towards Yugoslavia, has broken out) and expressions of public opinion abroad will have convinced the Government of M. Pashitch that any endorsement of its demands on Greece is not to be looked for outside Yugoslavia. The conditions that it was proposed to make the Yugoslav price for an alliance with Greece would, no doubt, represent, from the Yugoslav point of view, a satisfactory settlement of outstanding questions on the south-eastern frontier, and if the Greeks were prepared to concede them so much the better for Yugoslavia. Rarely in any part of the world, never in the East, are bargains struck quite so easily, and certainly in the Balkans neither party exhausts the patience or the respect of the other by asking or by refusing to yield too much. The root of the trouble will probably be found to be twofold: in the first place, the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika proves to be far too small for its purpose; in the second place, Greece after signing an honourable and statesmanlike agreement, known as the Greco-Bulgarian Geneva Protocol, showed such readiness to repudiate her signature at the first suggestion of Yugoslavia's displeasure that M. Pashitch came at once to the conclusion that any terms could be imposed upon Athens. His retort to the Geneva Protocol was, therefore, to insist that Greece, who before had admitted the possibility of a Bulgarian origin for some of her Slav subjects, should declare that all the Slavophone inhabitants of Macedonia were Serbs, while, to clinch the matter of the Free Zone, he asked that the whole railway between the frontier and Salonika should be placed unreservedly in the hands of the Yugoslav Government. Greece not unnaturally has refused the two requests, but in so doing has offered some useful concessions, which Yugoslavia in showing a more complacent mood might not have obtained.

The existing dimensions of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika, as was to be gathered from an article on the subject in THE NEAR EAST of May 28, present a real difficulty. The land area is thirteen and a half acres in extent, and it has been found that after the erection of the necessary offices, station buildings and warehouses, there is not enough room to satisfy the requirements of private companies. Government consignments, both imports and Monopoly goods exported, have priority, and commercial firms, it is urged, when using the Zone can do so merely for direct transit purposes. There will thus be a tendency for Yugoslav merchants to rely more and more on the neighbouring Greek Free Zone, where more space is available and, perhaps, greater facilities for the handling and storing of goods exist. This is a development that the Yugoslav Government does not care to encourage; but in ordinary circumstances it would have been difficult to find an excuse for reopening the whole question of the Free Zone within eighteen months of its settlement after many years of negotiations. As things now are, if claims in other directions have to be waived to meet Greek susceptibilities, it may be possible to make out a good case for a drastic revision of the Free Zone agreement. The Greek Government has already accepted the principle of a "rectification" of the Zone; in regard to the Ghevgheli-Salonika railway it is ready to bind itself not to charge higher dues on Yugoslav merchandise than those in force on the line through Yugoslav territory, as well as to carry out all work of construction necessary for the proper working of the railway including a double track, and to submit all differences of opinion over the details of management in future to arbitration. The extreme lengths to which the Greek Government is prepared to go in order to meet Yugoslavia are an indication of the anxiety prevailing in Athens for an alliance.

M. Pashitch's Ministry may not have expected that so much publicity would be given to the initial stages of the negotiations. It will have been argued in Belgrade that Greece required a "lesson" for having taken sides in the Serbo-Bulgarian dispute over Slavophones in Macedonia, and to this end the proposed alienation of a Greek railway may have appeared a sound move. The analogy of the suggested Dedeagatch corridor and the permission given to Greece to exercise running rights over the dead-end of the Monastir railway were useful points for debating purposes; but it must have been recognised in Yugoslavia that an attempt to enforce on Greece the conditions advanced could be justified only in the event of a victory in war. For this reason it is a matter for regret that the Yugoslav Government, in order, as it imagined, to clinch the real point at issue, allowed itself to pose as being quite indifferent to national rights and to that international comity which must necessarily be the basis of European civilisation. Non-Balkan Governments will be inclined to look askance at M. Pashitch's attempt to don the mantle of Napoleon, and those without a sense of humour will not stop to reflect that old clothes never fit. It is to be hoped, therefore, that no time will be lost, for the sake of Yugoslavia's prestige in Europe, in reopening and bringing to a satisfactory conclusion, negotiations, if not for a treaty of alliance with Greece, at least for a rectification of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika. Already a semi-official Yugoslav statement has appeared to the effect that the Belgrade Government does not regard the negotiations as ruptured, but only postponed, and that their re-opening by Greece is awaited. This attitude, in all the circumstances may hardly be sufficient to remove the bad impression caused abroad by the divulgation of the Yugoslav demands, and it should be possible to find a more direct channel for explaining to the Greek Government that a considerable increase in the area of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika will meet the situation, if the Greek promises of improvements on the railway to the frontier are carried into effect.

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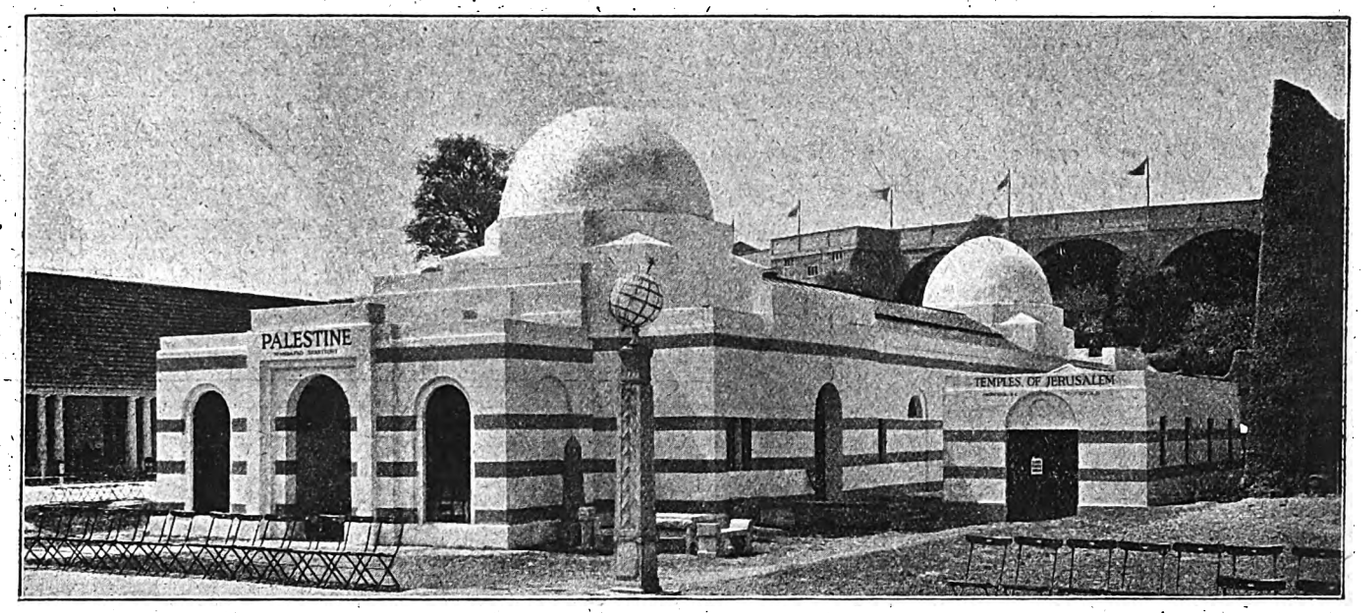
PALESTINE AT WEMBLEY, 1925.



THE ECONOMIC BOARD FOR PALESTINE.

Although the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley originated with the Palestine Government, the latter was obliged to pass on part of its responsiblity and accepted the offer of the Economic Board for Palestine to raise a Guarantee Fund, which reached a total of £3,100. This Board was formed in 1921, to promote the investment of capital for the development of Palestine. It is essentially non-political in all its activities, and aims at preparing ground on which business enterprises may subsequently build. The chairman is Sir Alfred Mond, who combines enthusiasm for and a profound belief in the economic potentialities of Palestine with a shrewd business instinct.

Last year the Economic Board through its indefatigable Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. S. Cohen, took an active part in the creation of the Palestine Pavilion, and it was undoubtedly due to Mr. Cohen's organising ability, seconded by the sound management of Major R. T. Little, the Palestine Government's Commissioner, that the Pavilion was so popular and successful. It served to make the country and its products better known not only in Britain, but, through the many thousands of visitors from overseas, to other parts of the world also, and the results must have been eminently satisfactory to the exhibitors, who sold goods to the value of £30,000. This year the administration of the Pavilion has been entrusted by the Government of Palestine to a Committee, of which Mr. W. S. Cohen is Chairman.

The opening of the Pavilion in its new garb was celebrated on May 12 by a luncheon at the Wembley Garden Club, at which Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was present.

Among the undertakings in which the Economic Board for Palestine is interested are the Central Bank of Co-operative Institutions in Palestine and the Palestine Corporation. In the former, now in its third year, the Board holds a quarter of the Ordinary shares and acts as the Bank's London Agents. The Bank, as its name implies, exists for the purpose of financing co-operative societies in Palestine. Of these there are several categories, Credit Unions, and Agricultural, Industrial and Consumers' Co-operative Societies. Credit Unions are Societies established to make small loans to their members up to a maximum of ten times the amount of their paid-up share capital, the Bank limiting its advances to these societies to sums not exceeding five times their paid-up capital, i.e., half of the total liability of the members. Of the Unions, six are mainly rural in character, eight predominantly urban. The principal urban Societies, of Jerusalem and Jaffa, now extend their scope to such business as the insurance of members' lives, education and endowment policies and co-operative building loans. They have become almost independent of outside financial help, owing chiefly to the large sums held by them on deposit. The other Societies may be expected to remain for a considerable time dependent on the Bank, although in no single instance for any large amount.

The second annual report of the Central Bank for the twelve months ending August 31, 1924, says:—Loans to agricultural co-operative societies are, and will continue to be, the most important branch of the Bank's work. These societies can render essential service in a country like Palestine, where agriculture is the principal industry. Where co-operation has been fully developed, the society acts both as purchasing agent for the agricultural requirements of its members, such as seeds, fodder, fertilisers, etc., and selling agents for their products. There are now 22 Agricultural Societies to whom loans have been made by the Bank, the total amount lent during the year ending August 31, 1924, being £51,000. Loans to the amount of £E1,900 were issued to Industrial Co-operative Societies engaged either (1) as building contractors or on the development of quarries, (2) as carpenters, bootmakers or tailors, the articles manufactured by members being sold in the Co-operative Society's store. Consumers' Co-operative Societies received loans amounting to £E7,600 for the period under review. These Societies are engaged in the purchase and sale of goods for their members, on the lines of Co-operative Wholesale and Retail Societies in England, a class of business carried on for some years in Palestine by the "Hamashbir," a society under the control of the Labour Organisations.

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The Palestine Corporation is directly interested in a number of enterprises in the country, prominent among them being the Palestine Salt Company, the Levant Bonded Warehouses Company, the Portland Cement Company "Nesher," and the Palestine Silicate Company; it also makes loans to commercial and industrial undertakings. During 1924, the production of the Palestine Salt Company was restricted to 2,660 tons, owing to considerable technical difficulties in connection with the salt reservoirs and basins; but the stocks of brine accumulated in the reservoirs and crystallisation basins at the end of the year promise a materially increased output for 1925, provided that a satisfactory remedy can be found for the loss of brine which is taking place in certain of the reservoirs. The business of the Levant Bonded Warehouses shows a substantial increase in 1924 over the returns of 1923, both at Haifa and at Jaffa. Warehouse accommodation has had to be extended at the former port, and the company now shows a profit on its trading. The Nesher Company has completed its installation and it is anticipated that production of Portland cement will begin towards the autumn. Its plant is capable of producing up to 60,000 tons per annum, and a profitable market is counted upon not only in Palestine, where the building trade is very active, but also in Syria and in Egypt, where the price of cement is favourable. The Palestine Silicate Company has been able to produce since June 1924, about a million bricks a month; but the output is insufficient to meet the demand, and arrangements have had to be made to extend the plant.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

From the activities of the Economic Board for Palestine, to which reference has been made in the previous article, it is easy to infer the advantages accruing to the country from the existence of such a body. A number of backward countries would be prepared to put up with a Zionist Organisation that undertook to introduce population and capital, and would trust to luck or to their own good management to see that the Organisation's political aims, if it had any, were kept within bounds; but they would welcome without any reservations the practical interest of an Economic Board that existed solely to promote the material prosperity of the land, under the promptings of a whole-hearted enthusiasm. Whether from the millions of the Zionist Organisation, against which have to be set, in the opinion of some, a Jewish immigration, or from the hundreds of thousands of the companies which look upon the Economic Board as their parent or foster-parent, Palestine is an undoubted gainer and has every reason to be satisfied with itself. The Millenium has not yet come; but progress is being made in many directions, and with less attention to politics and more concentration on material reconstruction the country would seem to have no need for anxiety in regard to the future. A year ago the Palestine Government anticipated a deficit of nearly half a million Egyptian pounds, but the revised official estimates for the year ending March 31, 1925, show a surplus of £E231,000 over the estimated expenditure, after provision has been made for £E68,896 on account of the Ottoman Public Debt. No doubt there are many charges that Palestine has yet to meet in regard to interest on loans, and it is not altogether out of the wood; but the steady progress is there. Exports for the last three years—1922 £E. 1,070,171; 1923 £E. 1,143,234; 1924 £E. 1,200,812—show the right tendency, although under the conditions availing they inevitably linger a long way behind imports, which for the corresponding years were £E. 5,471,667, £E. 4,825,125 and £E. 5,266,349.

If the Arab population is wise, it will make up its mind that in regard to the economic development of the country the Jewish people mean business, and it will resolve to have its full share in the material prosperity that their activities are bringing to the country. If the fears of Jewish political domination were justified, there would be much to be said for the Arab case; but Great Britain is not going to allow the Arabs to be placed under any Jewish political heel, whereas the benefits to be derived from the Jewish funds that are being so unstintingly expended in the country are apparent and can be shared in by the whole Arab community.

Industrial Development.

The annual reports of some of the Jewish enterprises tell their own story of what is being accomplished, and it is not without interest to study their statements; for in spite of the fervour behind Jewish activities there is always the determination to make, if possible, every undertaking

MR. WALTER S. COHEN,
Honorary Secretary of the Economic Board for Palestine and Chairman of the Palestine Pavilion Committee.

a paying proposition and every colony self-supporting in the long run. The steady progress in industrial development is shown by the following list of factories:—at Tel-Aviv, four: brick works, silk weaving, cotton spinning and tannery, besides a number of smaller factories producing cigarettes, chocolate, furniture, shoes, knitted and electrical goods; at Haifa, four: flour mills, oil and soap, cement and salt works. A great impetus, we read, has been given to industrial development at Tel-Aviv by the power supplied by the Palestine Electric Corporation (Rutenberg Concessions). The power station at Jaffa has now been operating for a complete year with two fuel units, and a third is being added. The demand for power has much surpassed expectations,(and the station has made a most successful start, and should give a good return on money invested. Similar fuel power stations are or will be shortly opened at Haifa and Tiberias. These three stations form part of the larger hydro-electric scheme utilising the Falls of the River Jordan, and when the latter

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is completed, will become stand-by stations. The population, both Arab and Jewish, have shown themselves such good customers for current at Jaffa, and the market for power at Haifa has been so largely increased, since the

MAJOR R. T. LITTLE,
Commissioner, Palestine Pavilion.

scheme was formulated that it is regarded as certain that the original estimates of consumption will be much exceeded, and the doubts entertained at one time of the Rutenberg scheme as a paying proposition disappear.

Agriculture.

The outstanding feature of the year in agriculture is the development of tobacco cultivation. Since the abolition of the Tobacco Monopoly the output has increased from 1,000 kilograms in 1921 to over a million kilograms for 1922. Indeed, the production of tobacco for 1924 so largely exceeded the requirements of the Palestine market, this year, with the result that the imports of tobacco for the first nine months of 1924 fell to £E. 56,000 as compared with £E. 136,000 for the year 1923 and £E.246,000 for 1922. Indeed, the production of tobacco for 1924 so largely exceeded the requirements of the Palestine market, that the situation was not free from anxiety. Fortunately the quality of the tobacco has much improved, and the best samples have been readily sold abroad. Special attention is being devoted by the Government and various organisations to improved methods of cultivation and marketing, but much remains to be done before Palestine tobacco can hold its own permanently in the world markets. The best compares favourably with good samples from Macedonia or Smyrna, but a large proportion is not up to the standard required for export, and the methods of curing and baling are capable of great improvement.

Oranges continue to be the most important export of Palestine. The year 1924 showed a record of 1,589,331 cases, valued at £E. 420,792, exported. Increasing attention is being paid to the cultivation of vegetables. The soil and climate are eminently suitable for the production of "primeurs," and this industry should have a future.

Finally, a report says:—"The new population in Palestine are enterprising and progressive and have a relatively high standard of life, which will stimulate trade throughout the country. Palestine itself will furnish an increasing market for everything the country will produce; and Syria, with a population of about three millions, will also be a good customer for the factories of Palestine, as the two countries by a Customs Convention admit their respective products free of duty."

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THE PALESTINE PAVILION.

Notable Exhibits.

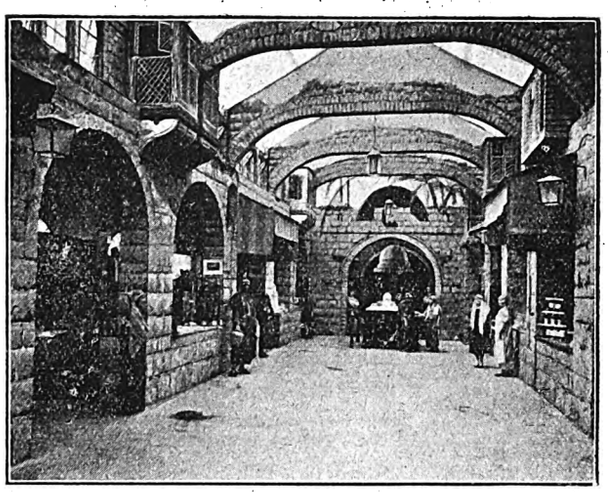
The Palestine Pavilion this year presents a striking contrast to its predecessor at the first instalment of Wembley. The building, in fact, is changed almost out of recognition. Last year Cyprus shared part of the pavilion, with the result that neither Palestine nor Cyprus had anything like adequate room for the display of their many exhibits, while the arrangement necessitated so many stands in the centre that when, as was usually the case, the building was crowded it was an arduous matter to move about and an impossibility to see the exhibits in any comfort. The re-arrangement of the building has left room and to spare for the sight-seer, for only just enough stands have been left in the centre to prevent any idea of undue spaciousness. The interior has been charmingly remodelled to present a picture of a Jerusalem street with the Jaffa gate at one end, and a glimpse of the street is certainly one of the most picturesque and vivid sights in the Exhibition, which is replete with the bizarre and the unexpected. From the walls jut out at intervals the flying buttresses which are so unique a feature of the streets of Jerusalem, while at intervals are the oil lamps which are to be found there. It is a pretty picture in greyish tints relieved by the bunches of attractive grapes on the top of a stand in the centre and by the gay stalls on either side where are to be seen Palestine craftsmen at work and exhibits of the old established industries of the country and of those which, under careful organisation, are just beginning to take firm root. There have been many contradictory reports of the prospects in Palestine, some favourable, others very much the reverse, but it may be said with confidence that no one after an inspection of the pavilion could deny that Palestine is now distinctly a land of promise. The variety of the exhibits is indeed quite surprising in view of the fact that, relatively speaking, there has been such a short period in which to reorganise the country, and the contents of the pavilion are an augury of the most hopeful description for the future.

The agricultural products and by-products of Palestine naturally play a very prominent part in the pavilion.

A Picturesque Corner of the Pavilion.

Samples of wheat, maize and barley and similar things are shown, while the bottled fruits on view include apricots, peaches, grapes, pears and mulberries. Competition in the world's markets in bottled fruits is, of course, very severe, but with adequate organisation it should be possible to find a satisfactory outlet for the Palestine products which have a most inviting appearance. On another stand piles of Jaffa oranges are to be seen, but as mentioned elsewhere the Jaffa is this year only making a fleeting appearance so that the pavilion will shortly be losing this pleasing touch of colour. In the centre on the stand surmounted by grapes to which reference has already been made, are exhibits of the wines and oils of the country, and the wines are also shown extensively elsewhere in the building. Tobacco, a new crop for Palestine, and one which promises to do well in the country, also figures prominently in the pavilion.

Excellent examples of pottery in blues and greens and of glassware, a traditional Palestine industry, are shown. The glassware is wonderfully done, and should delight the many ladies who will see it. Not far off is a stand where are to be seen examples of Palestinian filigree work and a craftsman at work. This filigree work must be seen to be appreciated, for mere words could not indicate the beauty of the products. The industry came to Palestine from the Yemen, and may, broadly speaking, be said



The Interior of the Pavilion.
A Street in Jerusalem.

to have been installed some 20 years ago, when there was a great influx of Jewish gold-and-silversmiths into Palestine from the Yemen, though some thirty years previously some filigree workers had come to the country. Eighteen years ago the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts was founded at Jerusalem, and this enabled the industry to be established on a satisfactory basis. The filigree work now produced in Palestine is essentially different from that of the Yemen, and apart from being more beautiful is said to be less brittle.

One of the most famous industries of the country is, of course, the manufacture of mother-of-pearl objects, and some delightful examples of these are to be seen in the pavilion, notably the wonderful model of the Mosque of Omar, which deservedly has a stand to itself in the centre. It is an exhibit unique of its kind, and is naturally a never failing source of attraction to visitors. One would like to think that when the exhibition is over this model will find a permanent home in one of the great museums. Other interesting models in mother-of-pearl are shown, while there is an admirable selection of necklaces, beads, bracelets, etc., The Women's Cultural League of Palestine are responsible for one small stall, at the extreme end of the Pavilion, on which is exhibited some exquisitely fine hand-made lace, the work of orphan children in Jerusalem, the proceeds from its sale being devoted to charitable objects. Weaving is another noted industry, and a large number of examples of this craft are on view such as knitted ties, wraps and sweaters. The exhibits also include examples of threadware and such articles as table covers and curtains.

One stall was stacked with a goodly display of perfumes and best quality soap, in which commodities Palestine is fast competing in the world's markets.

One or two of the new industries of the country have already been touched on in this review. Reference must also be made to the products of the building industry such as silicate bricks, cement blocks, roofing and floor tiles and cement. The fact that this industry is developing as it is, is the surest proof, if such were necessary, that the country is making rapid economic progress. Other exhibits include salt evaporated from the sea, mineral waters, chocolates and sweetmeats of various kinds. At one stand is a series of models, charts and maps, which gives

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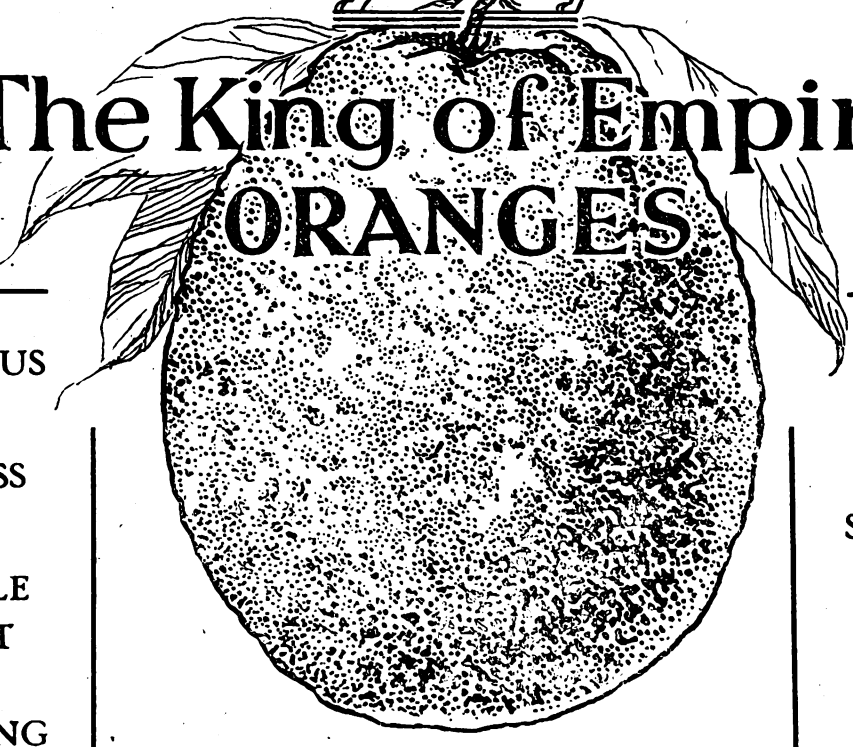
Jaffa



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a very good idea of the advance that has already been made in certain directions and of developments in the future. Apart from the actual exhibits, there are many objects of great interest in the pavilion such as an ancient ploughshare, and a German bayonet which, having been bent like a sickle, was being used for agricultural purposes when someone came across it. Truly a remarkable illustration of the Biblical statement.

In the course of a short review such as this, it is impossible to do adequate justice to all the exhibits. Many of the more outstanding features of this most interesting pavilion have been touched on, but there are many others not less important, mention of which is impossible owing to considerations of space. Regarded as a whole, it is a wonderful exhibition of the resources of Palestine at the present day. The country is and, so far as can be seen, must remain predominantly an agricultural region, but as the exhibits show, while everything possible is being done to develop agriculture, there are numerous directions in which industrial expansion is possible, and it is evident, judging from what is to be seen in the pavilion, that the best possible use is being made of these openings. It takes time, of course, to establish new industries, and it speaks eloquently for the future that so much progress has already been made. On this question the exhibition is a veritable revelation.

THE ORANGE-GROWING INDUSTRY.

No review of Palestine's industries would be complete without some reference to the golden orange which has been for many years the bulwark of the country's export trade. Palestine may, and doubtless will, develop an important export trade in various commodities in the future, but it will be difficult, if not impossible, to rival in another direction the success achieved by the "Jaffa." That word has almost come to be synonymous for the orange. Certainly one thinks of it instinctively in relation to the fruit. Not a few efforts have been made to grow the Jaffa outside Palestine, but whether it be the case that the climatic conditions of its homeland are essential for it or whether there are some particular qualities in the soil which are not found elsewhere, the fact remains that these attempts have not succeeded, and the market has still to look to Palestine for this type.

How or when the Jaffa originated in Palestine is uncertain. It is believed that the orange tree was introduced to the country from Spain, and the view is held that the Jaffa fruit is a hybrid. In the Arabic the Jaffa orange is called "Shamuti," on account of its peculiar oval shape. The extent of the cultivation of the fruit prior to the second half of the eighteenth century is uncertain, but it is clear that from about 1750 onwards the production of the fruit was on the increase. On at least three occasions before 1800 mention is made of the destruction of the orange groves round Jaffa, and the fact that this was done suggests that the groves were very extensive. At the present time the area occupied by orange trees is about 7,500 acres. As the name suggests the cultivation is principally in the Jaffa district, but the Jaffa orange is also grown in a few other regions such as Acre. The extension of the area under cultivation is dependent on the question of irrigation. The orange tree needs a great deal of water, and for this reason the existing groves are to be found in a belt along the coast and in the Jordan valley.

Up to 1900 the export trade showed a good deal of fluctuation, for the Jaffa had not then achieved its present day popularity, but in the decade before the War there was a rapid rise in the value of the exports. The following table illustrates the position:—

	Cases.	Value.
1884-5	106,000 ...	£26,500
1889-90	200,000 ...	£83,120
1899-1900	251,000 ...	£74,215
1908-9	744,463 ...	£190,460
1909-10	653,767 ...	£241,645
1910-11	869,850 ...	£222,937
1911-12	1,418,000 ...	£290,640
1913-14	1,608,570 ...	£305,330

The trade has had to be built up again since the War, and it has made an unexpectedly rapid recovery. Thus while for 1919-20 647,063 cases of the value of £166,570 were exported, the exports for 1922-23 were 1,464,588 cases of the value of £324,798, the volume of the trade being thus not far below the pre-War total. For the past season the crop was estimated to amount to 2,000,000 cases, and of these about 1,600,000 cases have been shipped to the United Kingdom. That speaks volumes for the way in which the industry has recovered; it also illustrates very plainly the extent to which the Jaffa orange growers depend on this country for their market.

A feature of the Palestine Pavilion last year was the fine display of Jaffa oranges on the stand of the "Pardess" Co-operative Society, and there is no doubt whatever that the enterprise shown in arranging for the exhibition of the oranges out of their season has done a very great deal to popularise the Jaffa in this country. The sales of the orange at Wembley were very great, and it is a pity that it is not possible to stock them this year for the whole period of the Exhibition instead of for only six weeks, for while last year's results were so good it has to be remembered that the British market for oranges is vast and is constantly extending, while competition from other regions is continually on the increase and in the future promises to be more serious than it has been in the past. The quality of the Jaffa should, however, enable it to hold its ground against competition, for while excellent oranges are produced elsewhere it is beyond argument that a better fruit than the Jaffa has still to be found. Of course there must always be the possibility that in the future the Jaffa may be successfully cultivated outside Palestine, but at the moment that is a contingency that need not trouble growers, and provided they maintain the quality of the fruit and see to it that it reaches the markets

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in good condition, there is no reason for any anxiety as regards outlets for the trade.

In this country the cult of the orange has passed beyond a fashion and has become a habit with every class of the population. For this the growers have to thank the doctors to a very large extent, for the popular belief is widespread that there is nothing like the orange to ward off influenza. Two or three of the University crews before the War trusted to the fruit to give them immunity from this troublesome complaint, and this fact gave the orange the best advertisement it could possibly have had.

The qualities of the Jaffa orange, it must be pointed out, are such as make it quite unique in the orange trade. It is large and thick skinned (which is a great asset in exporting it), has no pips, which is of itself a matchless advantage, while the flavour is very fine. It is not surprising in the circumstances, that the fruit should commend itself to the orange loving public.

An article on orange-growing in Palestine would be incomplete without some reference to the "Pardess" Co-operative Society of Orange Growers. This Society was established in 1903 by a few of the colonists from Petach-Tikvah, its objects being the organisation collectively of the shipment of oranges and their disposal abroad. Since its foundation the work of the Society has steadily developed, and it has come to play a very prominent part in the Jaffa orange trade.

THE LEBANON HOSPITAL.

At the Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, the Chairman, Dr. E. W. Masterman, who had just returned from a visit to the Hospital, said that the first impression one got was of the beauty of the situation and the suitability of the site of the hospital. "I saw all the patients, they are well cared for, and I noticed that instead of being surrounded by high walls they were given a wonderful amount of liberty, and sat or strolled about in the grounds much as they pleased, except, of course, those who need special care. Among others I saw a young Bedouin woman who had a cross burned on her head as the native remedy for disease, just as we have seen the pictures in previous reports and pamphlets, showing that ignorance and superstition still prevail. It was very evident how much the people need the care and treatment provided for them at Asfuriyeh. We are glad to know that a considerable number go out cured.

"We have very happy co-operation with the American University in Beyrout. The advanced students come up regularly to the hospital for instruction in the treatment of insanity, and you will be glad to know that we have received from the Rockefeller Foundation a special grant of 800 dollars a year for the support of a native student for a lengthened course with residence at the Institution."

Mr. Minter, the Clerk and Steward at Asfuriyeh, who is home on furlough after five years' service, described a series of lantern views of the buildings and grounds. He reminded the audience that Syria is a poor country, and not able to look after and maintain the mentally afflicted as is done in Western countries, also that it is difficult to get the relatives of the patients to realise their responsibilities. As to the water supply, when forced to bore it was at the end of the winter season when the land is full of water, it was therefore found sooner than expected, but at the end of the dry season, when the engine arrived and was put into use, the water had disappeared. It is expected that a permanent supply will be forthcoming at a depth of perhaps another 50 feet.

Sir Wyndham Deedes, spoke of the practical application of such institutions in the East which were living exponents of Christianity, the people for whom such places exist live in a benighted land where medical attention is difficult to obtain. Its influence and significance, he said, is not confined to the walls of the Institution or to the patients themselves: it is far greater and wider.

THE WEST LONDON PALESTINE BAZAAR.

The West London Palestine Bazaar, in aid of the Jewish National Fund, was held last Sunday and Monday at Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W.1. The Bazaar was opened on the first day by Lady Tuck, Mrs. H. L. Nathan in the chair. The following day Mrs. James de Rothschild was the opener, and Mrs. Philip Snowden was in the chair. A feature of the Bazaar was the Palestinian costumes worn by most of the stall-holders and helpers.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, K.C., M.P., lectured on "Egypt" to the members of the 1912 Club, last week, at 36, Bucklersbury.

Czecho-Slovakia's coal output in the first quarter of 1925 totalled 3,061,730 metric tons, the production of lignite being 4,669,798 tons.

The Persian Government have recently made a decision to the effect that the Port of Enzeli in future will be known as Pahlewi.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during March amounted to 32,697 oz., valued at Rs. 18,96,426.

The export of bones and horn from Greece has been prohibited, as these goods are useful for the preparation of chemical fertilisers.

It was last week announced that the four members of Mr. George Knight's Expedition to Central Asia, who are *en route* to Northern Tibet and Mongolia, have arrived at Lanchow, in the Province of Kansu, all well.

The Y.M.C.A. at Jerusalem gave a farewell reception on June 10 to Sir Herbert Samuel, the retiring High Commissioner for Palestine, at which he was presented with life membership of the association.

The situation at Sarhad, in Persian Baluchistan, is reported by the Meshed correspondent of the *Pioneer* to be much improved. In North Persia the Turkomans have made no fresh attack during the past week, but there are no signs of their dispersing from the vicinity of Similqan, 25 miles west of Bujnurd.

Owing to the illness of M. Canter Cremers, the neutral President of the Nile Water Commission which was to have presented its Report by the end of June, the British and Egyptian Governments have agreed that the meetings of the Commission should be adjourned until the autumn.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Cyprus Agricultural Bank.

In our issue of June 4 our Cyprus Correspondent referred to the criticisms that had been passed in the Island on the announcement of the establishment of a new Agricultural Bank. What was, perhaps, not made clear in the short paragraph was that, as the Bank has not yet been started, challenge could be directed only against the scheme as outlined, not against actual operations. As far as can be gathered, the critics have fastened on the announcement that the Bank's funds will be advanced only through the medium of local Agricultural Co-operative Societies at eight or nine per cent. interest. It is argued that the Societies will be obliged to charge from ten to twelve per cent. in order to cover their expenses, and that consequently, with the legal maximum rate of interest fixed hitherto at twelve per cent., the agriculturist does not stand to benefit much. Without doubt the actual rate of interest for loans to the peasants has been in the past much higher, although the lender could not sue for more than twelve per cent.; but hopes had been raised that Government support would be forthcoming to enable the new Agricultural Bank to lend money at not more than six per cent. The new Bank, which has the double advantage of being formed by the Imperial Ottoman Bank and of having the good-will of the Government, must be given time to prove itself. The raising of the Island to the status of a British Colony could hardly be without its influence on a Bank's rate of interest, if there were no agitation for union with Greece; and it is certainly to be desired that the peasants should be able to borrow money at a rate which will enable agricultural production to forge ahead.

Kassala Cotton.

The second report of the Kassala Cotton Company will be found on another page in this issue. This company was formed, it will be recalled, as recently as 1922, for cotton cultivation in the Kassala Province of the Sudan, and so far the company's operations have consisted mainly in development work. During the autumn the first crop to be grown under the company's management was sown; and it is eminently satisfactory to learn that a satisfactory crop matured on some 15,000 acres. The company's share of the proceeds will appear in the accounts for 1925. The report gives details of the agreement concluded between the Governments of the Sudan and Eritrea with regard to the use of Gash water in Eritrea. The Government of Eritrea restricts itself to a single scheme of irrigation at Tesenei, and further restricts itself to a maximum total of 65 million cubic metres of water in one season, but it is stated that if this amount of water is taken the company's interests will be affected to some extent.

Burmah Oil.

As usual, the meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, was rendered notable by a most interesting view of the position by the Chairman, Sir John Cargill. A year ago he was unusually confident as to the outlook for the company, and he had the satisfaction of being able to state that his anticipations had been completely fulfilled. Sir John emphasised the point that the company's success was in no wise due to the low cost of raw material. As a matter of fact, the cost of it increased, but this was principally upset by the increased volumes of marketable products saved through reduction on losses in refining and economies in consumption of fuel. The company also profited by the improvement in the rate of exchange. With regard to the outlook, Sir John was very guarded. He drew attention again to the way in which the position had been modified in recent years by over-production in the United States, and pointed out that the one thing that had saved the situation was the very satisfactory increase in the consumption of all oil products. "It is really a race," he added, "between production and consumption, but whenever consumption has shown signs of overtaking production some fresh discoveries of prolific sources of crude oil have again sent production ahead of consumption and continued to pile up stocks. There is, of course, no saying when the whole situation might not change and consumption overtake production, but meantime the situation is one of continued uncertainty, with possibilities in either direction. But a very important factor that must not be lost sight of is that, just as I have emphasised so strongly is the case with us, the cost of producing crude oil has risen enormously during the past few years and is bound to go on rising in, at any rate, all the older and proved fields, where deeper and much more expensive drilling is necessary to even maintain production. If I had the whole of the twelve months of the current year in front of me I doubt if I would be prepared to commit myself to any forecast, but as five months of the year are already gone and I know that on the whole the results of these five months' working are satisfactory, I will be bold enough to say that I am hopeful that when the time comes round we will be able to present to you as satisfactory a report and statement of accounts as those I have just been dealing with."

Cotton Growing in Iraq.

Very shortly an issue is to be made by the Diala Cotton Plantations of 400,000 shares of £1 each. This company, the chairman of which is Sir Edward Manville, and the other directors of which include Sir Auckland Geddes and Sir Douglas Newton, M.P., has been formed for the development of cotton cultivation on an extensive area in Iraq, the concession for which is held by Eastern Irrigations Ltd. As my readers are aware, experiments in cotton cultivation has been conducted in Iraq for some considerable time, and the results have been such as to suggest that with adequate irrigation facilities, and with

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the employment of modern methods, cotton should be grown with considerable success in the country.

Egyptian Tribute Loan Judgment.

Judgment has now been delivered by the Mixed Court at Cairo in the Egyptian Tribute Loan case, and the verdict is absolutely in favour of the bondholders. On the facts no other outcome was possible, and it may be hoped that the Egyptian Government will take this opportunity to escape from an untenable position by taking the necessary steps for the resumption of the loan service. Incidentally the case provides an excellent example of the value of the Mixed Courts in Egypt to those who have interests in the country.

ARTIFICIAL SILK INDUSTRY IN GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The first and only artificial silk factory in the Balkans, is about to be erected in Athens. The new company, which was only formed last April, and which will be known as the "Société Anonyme de Soie Artificielle," has a capital of seven million drachmæ. Of this, 3,500,000 drachmæ will be spent on machinery for the new factory, and about 1,000,000 drachmæ on the factory, the erection of which has already commenced near the Botanical Gardens in Athens. At first, the production of artificial silk yarn will not exceed 600 kilograms per day. The directors are confident, however, that before the end of the second year the daily output will have reached 1,000 kilograms. A small part of the machinery will be constructed in Greece, the bulk of it, however, will be bought in Germany, where prices are 25 to 30 per cent. lower than those quoted by British and French firms. All raw materials necessary for the silk production can be obtained locally.

Owing to the shortage of factories where silk yarn can be turned into tissues, etc., the consumption of artificial silk is rather limited in Greece. The company, therefore, do not anticipate doing much business in the country itself, but mostly rely on the export of its yarn, principally to the Italian and Egyptian markets.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 13 states:—

The market has been slow in getting into its stride again after the Whitsuntide break. This is not unusual and, under the conditions which have recently prevailed here, is by no means surprising. There has been no increase in the volume of inquiry from abroad; in fact, if anything, it is on a lower scale than before the holiday.

Yarn.—Disappointing results have attended efforts to do business during the past week. Inquiry has been small, and once again production appears to be overtaking the requirements of the market. Quotations show little change as compared with those prevailing before the recent holidays, but it is said that when actual business is put through concessions are by no means difficult to obtain.

Cloth.—General stagnation has been experienced with no outstanding demand from any quarter. All foreign markets seem to be operating on most careful lines, and it appears evident that there is little confidence in present prices. Business for India has been on a very small scale indeed, whilst for China it is hardly to be expected that any revival will be seen so long as the political conditions there remain so unsatisfactory.

Raw Cotton.—There have been rather wide fluctuations in American cotton, but on balance the advance of last week has been maintained. Reports from the cotton-growing States of America have been fairly satisfactory apart from the very important State of Texas, which is still in need of moisture. In Egyptian cotton there has again been a sharp advance. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.36; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 32.45.

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SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The number of steamers which entered the port of Piræus during May was 665 of 452,571 tons. Of these 510 were Greek, 47 Italian, 40 French, 7 Roumanian, 7 Dutch, 6 American, 5 Soviet, 3 Norwegian, 3 Bulgarian, 3 Turkish, 2 Swedish, 2 Danish, 1 Spanish, and 1 Egyptian.

The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during May was 727 of 20,038 tons, of these 707 were Greek, 18 Italian and 2 Turkish.

NEW P. AND O. STEAMER.

The Chitral, 15,300 tons, the third of the new Australian mail steamers built for the P .and O. Company, ran a series of successful trials on the Clyde on June 12 and afterwards left for London, whence on July 3 she will sail for Sydney on her maiden voyage. Viscount Inchcape was on board during the trials.

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, June 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkhenhead, July 1).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 19); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 20).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 27).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Lahore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 22).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 25); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 4); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, June 26); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 9).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, July 1).

The Turkish Customs Administration has reduced the Customs duty on Turkish, Persian, and other Oriental woollen carpets (Tariff No. 327 (a)) from 8,400 to 700 paper piastres per 100 kilog., and that on Turkish and Oriental kilims (Tariff No. 327 (b)) from 4,200 to 350 paper piastres per 100 kilogs.

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Company Meetings.

BURMAH OIL COMPANY.

Balance-sheet's "Splendid Showing."

Satisfactory Outlook.

Sir John Cargill's Speech.

The twenty-third annual general meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, was held on June 9, in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow.

Sir John T. Cargill, Bt. (Chairman of the Company) presided over a large attendance of shareholders.

The Chairman: I presume you will allow me, as usual, to hold the notice convening the meeting as read, and I will call upon the Secretary to read the auditor's report.

The Secretary (Mr. F. G. Holdsworth, F.C.I.S.) read the auditor's report.

The Chairman then said: When I had the pleasure of meeting you here last year I told you I hoped to pay one of my periodical visits to your properties in Burma and India during the winter, and that in all probability I would be accompanied by your managing director. This visit duly took place and, since Mr. Watson will be giving you his personal impressions and his views generally on the position of the industry as it affects your company, I shall confine my remarks to-day largely to the report and accounts we have submitted for the past year.

To begin with, they happily realise to the full the unusually confident anticipations I ventured last year, and I am sure that you will all share the board's satisfaction at the splendid showing of your balance-sheet and profit and loss account—a showing towards which the loyal, energetic, and able services of your representatives in the East have again so largely contributed. For the effect of increased cost of our raw material has been principally off-set, without any increase in refinery throughput, by increased volumes of marketable products saved, through reduction on losses in refining and economies in consumption of fuel. The improved rate of exchange enjoyed during the year has also materially helped our profits.

Increased Profit.

The balance of trading profit, after charging the substantial depreciations of £378,981 os. 8d. detailed in the report, is up by some £40,000 at £2,493,098 7s. 11d. Interest and dividend account is down by some £51,000, but this reduction is much more than accounted for by the lower dividend as compared with the previous year paid by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, for the year ended March 31, 1923, which comes into our 1924 accounts. This, with £634 12s. 6d. from transfer fees, brings the total profit and loss account credit balance to £2,881,197 13s. 10d., or fully £11,000 less than in 1923. Last year, however, we got rid of the balance of the 8 per cent. Preference share issue cost and, between this and the £54,000 refunded last year to Preference shareholders in respect of Dominion income-tax relief, we have £104,000 less to meet out of this credit balance, which income-tax, directors', etc., fees, salaries, rents, and charges, and the allocation to the employees' provident fund reduce to £2,257,157 11s., or some £53,000 more than last year.

Fields Expenditure.

Out of this, £20,000 has been again placed to insurance reserve, bringing that reserve up to £440,000, and £200,000 to general reserve, making the sum at its credit a round £1,000,000. In addition, for the reasons of prudence referred to in the report, your board has decided to create a "Fields expenditure equalisation reserve account" and to start this off with a credit of £150,000. For a number of years past I have referred to the large increase every year on our fields expenditure, due principally to the steadily increasing depths to which we have to drill our wells to obtain new production, but also to the fact that on the average the wells do not give nearly as large a yield from the deeper sands as they previously did from the shallower and more prolific sands. The inevitable result of this has been a constant increase on the cost of our raw material, and we have been fortunate, as I have just said, to offset this increase in cost in this and in recent years by large savings effected through improved methods of refining and also through the electrification of the fields and other economies.

At the moment we can see no possibility of reducing fields expenditure—in fact, the trend is still distinctly in the other direction—and as there is a limit to improvements in methods of refining and other economies, and at present there seems no substantial ground to look for increasing prices for our refined products to set against the rising cost of our crude oil, your directors have thought it wise to make some special provision for the equalisation of fields expenditure, and I feel sure that this prudent step will meet with the same hearty approval you have invariably accorded to your directors in the past in their considered and consistent policy of providing in good times for the possible difficult ones that almost inevitably come, and so often come at the most awkward times when not provided for.

The Dividends.

These provisions leave us with £1,887,157 11s., increased to £2,150,854 1s. 4d. by the carry-forward from 1923. Of this the Preference share dividends have absorbed £258,125 and the interim Ordinary share dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, subject to tax, paid in November last, £554,021 8s. 8d., leaving £1,338,707 12s. 8d. for disposal. From this the board recommend, and I shall shortly propose, that a final dividend of 4s. 6d. per share, subject to tax, absorbing £997,238 11s. 6d., be paid on June 19 and that the balance of £341,469 1s. 2d. be carried forward subject to corporation profits tax.

With the interim dividend paid in November the final now proposed makes a total distribution for the year of 35 per cent., subject to tax. This represents a very slight net increase on recent years, but this is purely fortuitous in the attempt to make our new method of paying "subject to tax" correspond as closely as possible to the 30 per cent. "tax free" dividend of the past.

The Balance-sheet.

Coming now to the balance-sheet itself, I have already dealt with the strengthening of the "General" and "Insurance reserves" and the creation of a "Fields expenditure equalisation reserve." The "Fire and Marine Insurance Account" is up by some £53,000; the "Employees' provident fund account" by some £181,000; and "Sundry creditors and credit balances" are up by about £136,000. On the credit side "Sundry debtors and debit balances" are down by some £472,000, but, on the other hand, Investments are up by £1,046,000, of which £731,000 is represented by war loan. "Stocks of products" are slightly up, as also are "Stocks of plant and stores," the latter mainly reflecting the increased scale of fields operations. "Refinery block" increase of £258,914 reflects concentration and reconstruction, but even at the increased figure your assets here are extremely conservatively valued. The "Fields block" has been reduced to a round figure of £350,000: "Fields electrification block, to £605,344; "Pipe lines" to £348,714; and "Tankers and tank installations" to £825,679. These moderate net figures of book value, embracing as they do your extensive producing, refining, and marketing operations, speak eloquently for themselves, and I need only add that in the opinion of your board—to say nothing of the market, which takes a much more sanguine view of them—your investments are very conservatively valued in your balance-sheet.

Since Mr. Watson's remarks will be conveying impressions and views which I largely share, I shall say no more of my recent visit to your properties in the East than that I was once again greatly impressed by the growth and extent of your operations in every sphere of your activities and by the fine body of men who conduct them there. I am sure that you will wish me once more to assure them all of your and our keen appreciation of the very gratifying results of their labours which we have just been examining.

Situation in India.

The Government of India's Budget for the current financial year once again proposed a reduction in the Excise duty on petroleum spirit, coupled with a reduction of duties on imported spirit to the extent necessary to remove all protection, and on this occasion the proposal was confirmed. Indigenous production of petroleum spirit consequently now enjoys no protection, but since it has never taken advantage of that protection in the past I do not imagine that the change will meantime make any material difference in the situation, although it undoubtedly places indigenous producers less able than ourselves to stand up to serious competition in a more vulnerable position.

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Economically and politically the situation in India is much healthier than it has been for a long time. Monsoons and crops have been good, and with the consequently improved purchasing powers of the population demand for our products continues to expand satisfactorily.

The Outlook.

With regard to the outlook for the current year, as you know, I am not given to making optimistic speeches or holding out hopes which may not be fulfilled and only give rise to disappointment. As I said to you four years ago, the longer I am in the oil business the more do I realise the risks and uncertainties and disappointments attached to it and the impossibility of forecasting for any length of time ahead the probable course of the market and the trend of prices for oil products, and since then the huge increase in the production of crude oil in the United States of America has made the situation more difficult and uncertain than ever. Not only have new prolific fields been discovered, but deeper drilling in many of the older fields which were showing signs of exhaustion has proved enormously prolific sands at depths that only a few years ago it was not considered possible to reach with the drill, with the result that to-day stocks of crude oil and of gasoline—that is, petrol—in America are higher than they have ever been before. The one thing that has saved the situation is the very satisfactory increase in consumption of all oil products, and especially of petrol and fuel oil. It is really a race between production and consumption, but whenever consumption has shown signs of overtaking production some fresh discoveries of prolific sources of crude oil have again sent production ahead of consumption and continued to pile up stocks. There is, of course, no saying when the whole situation might not change and consumption overtake production, but meantime the situation is one of continued uncertainty with possibilities in either direction.

Current Year's Prospects.

But a very important factor that must not be lost sight of is that, just as I have emphasised so strongly is the case with us, the cost of producing crude oil has risen enormously during the past few years, and is bound to go on rising in at any rate all the older and proved fields where depeer and much more expensive drilling is necessary to even maintain production. If I had the whole 12 months of the current year in front of me I doubt if I would be prepared to commit myself to any forecast, but as five months of the year are already gone, and I know that on the whole the results of these five months' working are satisfactory, I will be bold enough to say that I am hopeful that when the time comes round we will be able to present to you as satisfactory a report and statement of accounts as those I have just been dealing with.

I beg to propose: "That the report of the directors and audited statement of accounts, including the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, to December 31, 1924, presented to the meeting, be received, approved, and adopted." I shall now call on Mr. R. I. Watson, managing director, to address you and second this motion. After the motion has been seconded an opportunity will be given to the shareholders to ask questions or to make comments.

Managing Director's Survey of Position.

Mr. R. I. Watson: Sir John Cargill, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I am not going to take up your time with other than the broad essentials arising from the survey of your great and far-flung Indian interests, which very fully engaged my attention there between November and February last.

Paramount in importance among these is the question of the sufficiency of the resources of your raw material. I visited both your main field in Burma and the smaller ones being worked there and in India, including that of our friends the Assam Oil Company, Limited, in the north-east recesses of Assam. I am neither geologist nor driller, and whether or not in the possibilities of lateral or vertical extensions of these areas which we are constantly probing, additional resources of material consequence will yet be discovered, has largely still to be determined. While there are geological reasons, and our past experience, which are not unfavourable to these possibilities, I completely ignore them when I tell you that this close examination on the spot, together with the very full discussions I had with your geologists and local management, refortified the confidence I have always felt in the ability of your already proved Burma properties to yield your requirements for many years to come fully up to the volume of your refining operations of recent years. As we have unhappily had to remind you for the past few years, however, the cost of securing our requirements is inevitably advancing through the necessity for deeper and more extensive drilling coupled with the post-war advances in the cost both of necessary materials and of labour, and it is for this reason that we have felt it, if not absolutely immediately necessary, at any rate very desirable as a form of insurance of future equilibrium that you should build up a Fields expenditure equalisation reserve account when and so long as conditions otherwise make this reasonably possible to you.

Hazards of Production.

Before leaving this all-important question I feel it necessary to make some observations on certain issues which affect it. Outside of those who have to bear the anxieties of the oil business itself, there is still lamentably lacking anything like complete appreciation of how hazardous a venture the production side of it and how necessary for a company conducting operations through the whole gamut from the well to the consumer on the scale of yours, constantly to endeavour to add to, and to hold well beyond its immediate needs, the sources of its raw material. In that direction, in your own case, you have patiently and wisely supported the policy of your board in spending enormous sums in India year after year in the full recognition that your huge marketing and refining stakes there demand that a reasonable proportion of your revenue should be used to test favourable geological structure in India rather than in other countries, where success could not be of the same value in supporting that organisation. And such a policy of first exhausting the possibility of India's further petroleum production potentialities before venturing your surplus revenues in other countries in the same direction has, for the same reason, the further justification that it is one of insurance against the possibility of such areas being proved by others to the subsequent damage of these important interests.

India's Requirements.

And these factors quite apart, there are the not inconsiderable inducements both of advantageous geographical proximity to a large consuming maket and of a measure of protection, however so far

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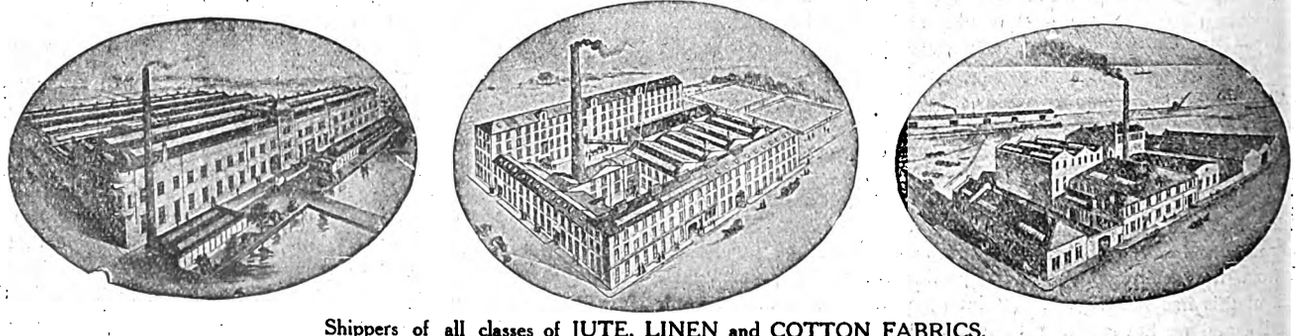
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unused by you, to capture the considerable difference between India's petroleum requirements and the present indigenous production of the country by producing from indigenous sources to the economic hilt of your capacity.

You, I am sure, realise all this; but that there is not such complete appreciation, at least in some quarters in India, is suggested by what appears to be a tendency recently to revert to the ill-conceived and unjustifiable policy of discrimination against you in connexion with your application for new areas of possible promise which was unfairly pursued some 20 years ago on the grounds either of the absurd bogey of monopoly, which a moment's consideration would show does not now, never has, and could never exist, or on the no less absurd ground that we already hold more proved territory than we are developing or than is necessary reasonably to maintain the whole structure of our business.

The Production Position.

As to the latter, in the face of the assurance with regard to the resources of your raw material which I have just given you, it would be not alone untrue, but even absurd, to suggest that your production could not be increased. Clearly it could be. But, while the volume which should still be yielded by these areas cannot be accurately estimated, it is at least clear that, substantial though it should be, it can afford little justification for the greatly increased establishment which would be ne necessary to raise it in quantities materially in excess of our present operations, so long as there remains nothing behind them, proved if undeveloped, which would assure amortisation of the consequent cost within their thus shortened life. And, unfortunately, that is the situation we have to deal with, for, outside of these presently producing Burma areas, we have, as you know, neither in that province nor in India itself, been so far successful, despite colossal effort and expenditure over a quarter of a century, in adding any completely new productive territories of commercial importance to the resources of our raw material.

But such suggestions, resulting apparently in at least one case of discrimination against you, and that royalty should be directly or indirectly increased and potential, but unproved, areas should be granted, not as in the past, but to the highest bidder at auction, have been made, and if these straws in the wind, creating in any case an atmosphere of uncertainty as to the future position of your leases and concessions there, presage any deliberate new policy, whether of discrimination specially against you or of increased specific exactions from the indigenous industry generally, you must clearly if regretfully reconsider your own policies both of utilising your surplus revenues in attempts to add to India's petroleum wealth and of a restricted maximum price for your kerosene; and this for the very commanding reason to endeavour to secure your future elsewhere.

With powerful competitors, both West and East of India, producing oil from foreign territories of much greater volume, on more favourable royalty and other terms, and, on average, probably at much less cost otherwise because of the greater calibre of their wells, it would be unutterable folly for India to put any difficulties in the way of indigenous producers strengthening their position, either by discriminating against any of them or by adding to their already mounting costs of production by increasing royalty or by auctioneering territories. As it is, the burden of Indian State and/or semi-State royalties, taxation, and dues of one kind or another borne by you is responsible for over £2 per ton of the market price of your products.

Value of Company's Operations to India.

But I am confident that the Government of India is not, and will not consciously be a party to such tendencies. Your company is the largest producer of petroleum in the Empire, and, both in and out of it has done and attempted to do more than any other body for the development of petroleum under British auspices and control. And the tale of the importance and value of your operations to the economic life of India and Burma is not exhausted either by the services of light and power and lubrication which they afford, or by the revenue, direct and indirect, which they yield to the Central and Provincial Governments and semi-State Departments, amounting to some 2 2-5 crores of rupees, or £1,700,000 per annum, and equal, as I have said, to over £2 per ton on the products manufactured. For you have directly on your pay rolls there some 35,000 employees, to whom you disburse something like 2¼ crores of rupees, or some £1,600,000, per annum in salaries and wages, and indirectly your operations give employment and sustenance to many thousands more both there and in this country.

I visited several of the outside areas you are testing in Burma and India. Some have shown promise both in oil and in gas, but none has so far reached commercially productive horizons.

Electrification.

Electrification of the Yenangyoung field is realising to the full the advantages and economies anticipated, and the consumption of crude oil as fuel in the fields generally has by this means there, and elsewhere by the fuller utilisation of gas, been practically eliminated. While, on the one hand, we are arranging to conserve in the sand every cubic foot of gas possible, we are, on the other, taking steps, by additions to your gasoline extraction plants and in other ways, to turn to profitable use every possible cubic foot unavoidably produced with the oil. In these and in other directions all avenues are being explored in the fields to utilise your resources to the best advantage.

Schemes for improved and/or additional housing of fields labour, their medical and surgical care, and for the better education of their children, were examined, amended, and in most cases, either *in toto* or in principle, approved by me during my visit. One of the issues of the recent labour strike in the fields has been our institution of specifically organised labour bureaus, to bring your officials, both administrative and executive, into closer knowledge of your Burmese and Indian employees as individuals, and this departure, with the parallel institution of rice stores to keep down the cost of living, has, besides undoubtedly creating a much healthier atmosphere in your fields, given your officials the means to secure and keep regular personal records of the qualifications and experience generally of the whole body of your employees with reactions very beneficial to the efficient conduct of your operations.

Training of Staff.

Both in Burma and in the Indian fields we are training relatively large numbers of our own countrymen in an art which they cannot learn in this country—*i.e.*, drilling—and in this way are doing our bit, both to create a British drilling *personnel* and, to the extent

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of our capacity, to relieve the great burden of home unemployment by thus creating a new and profitable profession for these men. Every facility is also being afforded to enable Burmese and Indian oil well labour to improve their status by qualifying themselves for more responsible positions there.

The electrification of No. 1 station, the Yenangyoung end of the Fields—Rangoon pipe line, has proved successful and economical. The whole pipe line system continues to give every satisfaction, and I found it thoroughly well organised and controlled.

Since acquiring an interest in the Assam Oil Company, Limited, and assuming its management, the production of that company has been practically doubled, an advance which it is hoped can be maintained and possibly bettered. Like yourselves, they have in the period been following the sound and conservative policy of charging to revenue all their fields expenditure as incurred, and may thus reasonably expect to resume the payment of dividends on a sound basis in the early future.

The Refineries.

Coming to your refineries, whose concentration and reconstruction are proceeding rapidly to completion, I have no hesitation in saying that the great practical experience behind the unusually fine inventive qualities of Messrs. Allan and Moore—which have given you the Allan atmospheric type of distillation, the Allan-Moore stove and Moore cooler—are providing a refinery which will be second to none in the world in modernity, efficiency of technique, and facility and flexibility of operation. Petroleum research and refining technology do not, however, stand still, and neither our refinery executive nor we here are by any means satisfied that we shall necessarily by these up-to-date facilities exhaust the possibilities of our raw material. For it is to the further potentialities of petroleum, both in its refining and in its application, that the industry as a whole must more and more look for the means either of directly cheapening production or of indirectly securing the same end by turning it to more profitable advantage, and I can assure you that the importance of research in these directions is not being overlooked by us.

Your fleet is well maintained, well found, and completely efficient.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

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27

Your organisation generally in the East was carefully gone into by me. It is composed of a splendid body of men, and such changes as I made were merely such as were calculated to speed up the whole machine and secure the most effective utilisation of the fine human material at your disposal.

Tinplate Interest.

Of your other interests in the East visited by me there remains the Tinplate Company of India, Limited. I was very favourably impressed by its plant and its lay-out. If it is not the finest and most up-to-date plant in the world there is certainly none anywhere superior to it and none that I have seen in this country to compare with it. As you already know, all doubts and misgivings as to successful technical operation in such a climate as India were dispelled almost from the first starting up, and production is now up to full capacity, which is sufficient to meet the whole of your tinplate requirements. The quality, too, is all that could be desired.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation of the great courtesies and invaluable guidance and assistance extended to me during my trip, which, from your managing agents right through the whole of your organisation, were accorded in the fullest measure. And perhaps I may also be permitted to express my keen appreciation to Mr. Whigham and my other colleagues on this side for so ably and successfully carrying on here while I was away.

I have now much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by the chairman.

The Chairman: Are there any questions or any remarks any shareholder would like to make before I formally put the resolution? There being none, I formally put the resolution which I have already proposed, and which has been seconded by Mr. Watson, to the meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have now pleasure in moving, "That a dividend on the Ordinary shares, recommended by the directors, at the rate of 22½ per cent. per annum, 4s. 6d. per share, less tax, making, with the interim dividend paid in November last, 35 per cent., less tax, for the year, be adopted, and that the same be hereby authorised to be paid on June 19, and that the balance of £341,469 1s. 2d., subject to corporation profits tax, estimated at £40,000, be carried forward."

Mr. Thomas S. Findlay: I beg to second the motion.

The Chairman: I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, you are all quite unanimous about that. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried.

The Chairman: I now beg to propose that Mr. D. W. Cargill be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. George Urie: I beg to second the motion that Mr. D. W. Cargill be re-elected a director of the company.

The resolution was approved.

The Chairman: I also beg to move that Mr. Leonard Gow be re-elected a director of the company.

Colonel R. D. McEwan: I beg to second the resolution that Mr. Leonard Gow be re-elected a director of the company.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. John C. Graham.—I beg to propose the reappointment of Mr. James Herbert Wilson, C.A., as auditor for the current year at a remuneration of 500 guineas.

The motion was carried.

The Chairman: That terminates the proceedings, and I thank you very much for your attendance.

Votes of Thanks.

Sir Thomas Paxton, Bart.: It is my privilege at this meeting to ask you to propose that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the chairman, who has done so noble a work for our organisation, and also to Mr. Watson (the managing director) for his great efforts on behalf of those interested.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: It is usual for me to say a few words to you of thanks, and to-day I would just like again to thank you most heartily for the very warm welcome, and for your patient hearing of my address, and also for the response you have given to the vote of thanks kindly proposed by Sir Thomas Paxton, from which I take it that I still retain the confidence of my shareholders. (Cheers.) I feel that to-day I have really played a secondary part in the proceedings, and that the real vote of thanks is due to your managing director, Mr. Watson, for the extraordinarily able and lucid address which he has given you, which, I am sure, will repay you all to read very carefully when you get it in print. As you know, I accompanied Mr. Watson in his trip to the East, and I can assure you

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that there was not any detail in your company's operations, and in the vast organisation which is necessary to carry on your business in the East, which Mr. Watson did not go into with the extraordinary thoroughness and care which have been one of the main features of his services for over 24 years to the company, for which, as managing director, he has done such extraordinarily fine work. I should just like you to give Mr. Watson a very hearty vote of thanks. (Cheers.)

Mr. Watson: I thank you all very much, ladies and gentlemen; and I also thank Sir Thomas Paxton and Sir John Cargill for their kind remarks.

The proceedings then terminated.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.

Development of Traffic.

Increased Dividends.

The annual general meeting of the Suez Canal Company was held in Paris on June 8.

The report presented by the board of directors stated that the results of the past year had entirely borne out the optimistic forecasts made a year ago. The Canal traffic, following its steady development, gave evidence in 1924 of an activity hitherto unknown, and the tonnage in transit, 10 per cent. greater than that of the previous year, exceeded by a quarter the tonnage of 1913. That, amid the economic vicissitudes of the post-War period; the progress of maritime movement should have been uninterrupted since 1919 and that for the last two years the volume of traffic should be larger than it has ever been before are indications the entirely satisfactory character of which it would be superfluous to emphasise. To the increase in the transit receipts has to be added the increase in the receipts of the financial department. So the profits of the year are much larger than those of the previous year, enabling the directors to contemplate a new and considerable increase in the dividend. They proposed, consequently, to fix at 327.18 francs the gross return on each share of the capital, which, on the basis of the taxes in force at the present time, would correspond to a net yield of 265 francs. It would be remarked that, for the first time since the commencement of the War, the gross revenue, if it were converted into gold francs, would be almost exactly equivalent to what it was in 1914. If it was not the same with regard to the net revenue, that was because of the considerable increase in taxes.

In conformity with the declarations made last year the increase in the transit receipts has enabled the company to reduce by 25 centimes the transit dues as from April 1, 1925.

The total receipts of the year amounted to 508,584,356.42 francs, showing compared with those for 1923 an increase of 89,333,936.77 francs. The share of the transit receipts in this increase was 10,718,471.04 francs. Two receipts of a different kind figured under the heading of the financial department; on the one hand the profits from the investment of funds and various receipts, which show a decrease of 7,785,867.63 francs, and on the other hand the profits on the transmission of funds, which show an increase of 86,428,097.17 francs. The expenditure totalled 60,164,893.79 francs, showing an increase of 1,685,898.04 francs.

For the same reasons as those explained in the previous report they proposed to fix at the same sums as in 1923 the allocations for works of development and for depreciation. Allowing for these allocations, the excess of receipts over expenses stood at 373,338,862.63 francs, and adding the balance brought forward from 1923 of 3,735,347.38 francs, there was a disposable total of 377,074,210.01 francs. It was proposed to fix the profits for division at 354,573,521.12 francs, and to deduct from the balance of 22,500,688.89 francs a sum of 20,000,000 francs to be added to the extraordinary reserve, and to carry forward 2,500,688.89 francs. The division of the distributable profit of 354,573,521.12 francs between those entitled to it would result in a dividend of 314.684 on each share. That dividend, increased by 12.50 francs in the shape of interest, represented a gross revenue of 327.184 francs. That total at the time of drawing up of the report represented a net yield of 265 francs. But it could not be overlooked that before the payment of the coupon of July 1 taxes affecting shares might undergo a further increase. In that case the yield would be below the amount indicated.

The general maritime traffic of 1924 consisted of 5,122 passages, representing a net tonnage of 25,109,882. It thus exceeded by 2,379,720 the tonnage of 1923. The commercial navigation reached 23,828,615 tons net. As regards the traffic in ballast, it amounted to 2,306,776 tons, representing 9.2 per cent. of the whole traffic of the Canal.

The development of the Canal traffic had been again accentuated since the beginning of the present financial year. For the first quarter the net tonnage exceeded by 1,166,000 that of the corresponding period of 1924, and the receipts from the traffic showed an increased value of 7,580,000 francs. Since April 1, notwithstanding the further decreased dues, this surplus value had not ceased to increase; it had reached on May 24 10,240,000 francs. It was not as yet possible to assert whether this exceptionally rapid progress would be maintained during the course of the financial year. However, from an examination of the present economic conditions of the principal territories beyond Suez, it appeared that the conclusion might be reached that there was a fairly large abundance of produce available for export. So it might be hoped that the results of 1924, although brilliant, would be surpassed in 1925.

The 1921 improvement programme was now in full swing. The preparatory dry embankment work undertaken between the 20th and 30th kilometre, in view of widening to 60 metres, was completed in the course of last year; the dredging work was then immediately commenced, and over a length of 800 metres, commencing from the 20th kilometre, the widening had already been handed over to the Traffic Department to be utilised as a supplementary station. The further improvement dredging work had likewise been commenced at the El Guisr bends. According to the present outlook, the completion of the 1921 programme did not appear to be at all a matter of urgency. In these circumstances it would be possible for them, at least during the next few years, to carry out the dredging work by availing themselves of the services of the staff and the plant at the disposal of the company without the necessity, consequently, of making appeal to the shareholders.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

KASSALA COTTON.

The report of the Kassala Cotton Company for the year ended December 31 states that during the first half of the year a labour force of some 500 men was continuously employed upon the improvement and extension of existing irrigation works, and upon the excavation of a new canal with brick head-regulator at Magauda. The Gash flood arrived at Magauda on June 28, 1924, and flowed continuously until September 22. This flood was above the average in total volume of water, and was noteworthy for maintaining a comparatively steady and low level without high spates. The first season of flood was of necessity an experimental period so far as the behaviour of the irrigation works was concerned. The new canal at Magauda proved itself to have been designed on the right lines, but watered an area less extensive than that for which it was planned. This was due partly to some subsidence of banks at a point where the soil, though exceptionally hard, proved to be unusually susceptible to the effect of water, and partly to the low level of the flow of the Gash. Steps have been taken which it is hoped may improve the efficiency of this canal in the coming flood. On the whole the operation of the irrigation works was satisfactory, and valuable information and experience have been gained.

During the autumn the first cotton to be grown under the company's management was sown. A satisfactory crop has matured some 15,000 acres, and the company's share of the proceeds of this crop will appear in the accounts for 1925. The railway connecting Kassala with the main line to Port Sudan reached Kassala in the early part of last year. The train service was suspended during the flood, but was resumed later in the year. The Sudan Government Railways Department hope to complete the permanent works by the end of 1925.

On January 24, 1925, the directors issued to the shareholders a circular informing them that an agreement had been concluded between the Governments of the Sudan and Eritrea on the question of the use in Eritrea of Gash water. It is now possible to give the main features of the agreement, which are as follows:—The Government of Eritrea restricts itself to a single scheme of irrigation at Tesenei in Eritrea—25 miles upstream of Kassala. It further restricts itself to taking of the discharge of the river the first five cubic metres per second, up to one-half of the first 20 cubic metres per second, and never more than 17 cubic metres per second, with a maximum total of 65 million cubic metres of water in each season. The Sudan Government undertakes to give to the Government of Eritrea a certain percentage of its profits from the Kassala scheme when these exceed an agreed figure. In the 1924 season, according

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to Eritrean figures, the total quantity of water which passed Tesenei was about 800 million cubic metres—the quantities, according to Sudanese figures, passing Kassala and Magauda in that season being respectively about 456 and 227 million cubic metres. Gauge readings show that the average annual volume of water passing Kassala from 1910-1924, inclusive, has been 415 million cubic metres—the maximum (1916) being 814 million and the minimum (1921) being 137 million cubic metres. If the Government of Eritrea decides to proceed with its scheme of irrigation and, in fact, takes the 65 million cubic metres of water to which it is entitled, this company's interests will clearly be affected to some extent. At present the Government of Eritrea is reported to be proceeding with works at Tesenei with a view to bringing a small experimental area under crop after the coming flood. The basis of the agreement referred to above was a joint Report by the technical advisers of the Governments of the Sudan and Eritrea to the effect that the works projected in Eritrea will cause no serious disturbance to the regime of the river and that there will be no danger of its being diverted from its natural bed.

In the previous year's accounts, the amount by which debenture interest paid and accrued exceeded interest on investments received and accrued was charged to profit and loss. The directors have decided, however, that during this period of construction and development, during which no revenue could be earned, this amount is properly chargeable on capital expenditure. Accordingly, the sum of £28,746 7s., being the excess of debenture interest over interest receivable from the company's inception to December 31, 1924, is shown this year in the balance-sheet as an addition to the cost of capital works. The profit and loss account shows, after charging preliminary expenses, a debit balance of £15,499 1s.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC.

The report of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company for the year ended December 31 last states that the net revenue of the company was £59,307, and after adding £16,388 brought forward from 1923, and deducting interim dividends, there remains a balance of £52,278. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend for the year of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. for the year free of tax on the ordinary shares, £33,943; and to carry forward £11,889.

TEA RESULTS.

The directors of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company have declared a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making 45 per cent. for the year 1924, payable July 2.

The United Planters' Company of Ceylon proposes a dividend of 25 per cent., less tax, making 35 per cent. for 1924, payable July 1.

The report of the Doloi Tea Company for the year ended December 31 last states that the profit was £21,695, plus £15,346 brought in, making £37,040. The directors recommend a final dividend of 30 per cent., making 70 per cent. for the year, leaving £19,546 to carry forward.

The report of the Bengal United Tea Company for 1924 states that the gross profit was £49,237, less expenses, including share splitting charges, taxation, and £7,500 to reserve, £22,002, leaving £27,234 plus £7,612 brought in, making £34,847. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 20 per cent., less tax, making 30 per cent., leaving £5,332 to be carried forward.

The net profit of Assam Consolidated for 1924 was £100,084, less interest on Six per Cent. 20-Year notes £6,750, reserve for depreciation £3,975, and garden managers' commissions £8,137. The directors propose placing to reserve £15,000, to write off from preliminary expenses £7,707, and a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 9 per cent.) £20,000, carrying forward, subject to taxation, £14,133.

The report of the Eastern Assam Tea Company for 1924 states that the profit was £73,158, plus £5,238 brought in. The reserve for income-tax absorbs £5,000, bonus share issue expenses £1,134; and a final dividend is proposed of 25 per cent., less tax, making 35 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £13,313.

The report of the Borhat Tea Company states that the profit for the past year was £29,283, as against £21,708; a final dividend of 8 per cent. is proposed, making 13 per cent., as compared with 8 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £19,765.

The Rajah Alli Tea Estates report a profit of £13,213. After meeting all charges the directors propose a dividend of 20 per cent., carrying forward £12,669.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D O T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Timber, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Kasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of raw materials, i.e., timber, leather, iron bars, paints, tools, etc., for the year 1925-1926, required for the Model Workships and Trades Schools mentioned below. August 1.

Waterworks.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for a contract for new waterworks at Fikria. July 2. (D.O.T.)

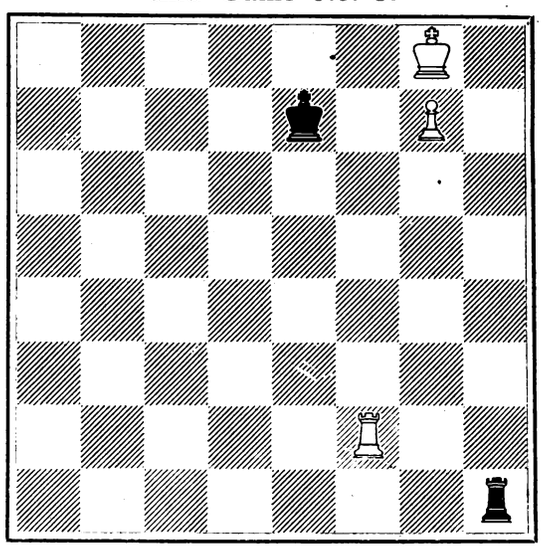
Twillette.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for twillette, 56 in./58 in., 1,500 yards. July 7.

Bogie First Class Carriages.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 5, 10, 20, 30, or 40 Bogie first class carriages of all steel construction. June 27.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."

End Game No. 3.



White to play and win.

Solution to end game No. 2.—1. K—K3, K—K4; 2 K—Q3, K—Q4; 3 K—K3, K—K4 (K—B5 would not do, and if P—R4; 4 PxP, PxP; 5 P—R4, PxP; 6 PxP, K—K4 draws); 4 K—Q3 and draws.

PULVERISED FUEL PLANT.

The International Combustion Ltd., of Africa House, Kingsway, announce that their associated company, Combustion Engineering, Ltd., have secured the contract for the St. Maurice Lumber Co., through their consulting engineers, Messrs. McLellan and Junkersfeldt, for the largest Lopulco pulversised fuel plant yet obtaining in the British Empire. The contract covers a complete Lopulco equipment for 4 Babcock and Wilcox boilers, each having 10,470 sq. ft. of heating surface with a working pressure of 130 lb. per sq. inch, and the width of each furnace is 17 ft. 7 in. The Lopulco equipment consists of Lopulco feeders and burners, horizontal and rear wall water screens, Murray fin side walls, 5 six-ton Raymond mills, 5 Lopulco dryers, 5 C. E. Airheaters, with forced and induced draught fan equipment.

The British Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that a notice was recently published in the *Bursa* to the effect that the Ministry of Finance has issued strict orders to all public departments "that in future all offers of supplies shall be quoted in lei. Foreign houses wishing to escape from the fluctuations of the leu can quote the countervalue of the leu in a strong currency at the rate of exchange on the day offer is filed. But all payments shall be made in lei, the amount being calculated at the rate of exchange on the day of payment. Thus if the leu falls the tenderer will receive more lei, whereas if it rises he will not be able to demand more than the sum fixed on the tender form. He will thus be assured of receiving the full amount stipulated in spite of any fluctuation of the leu."

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜—⅝
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	289-292
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	277-282
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.40—20 42
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.02-25.03
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 1/16d.
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	102.35 - .40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,050
Budapest	Kronen to £	4 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 1/16d.
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	905—915
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.86—4.86¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	160.85—.90
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	125¼
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.50-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.20-25 35

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EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Lord Derby on the Position.

The annual general meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association was held at Manchester on June 12, the Earl of Derby, President of the Association, presiding.

Lord Derby said that he had no doubt that they were all extremely pleased with the excellent financial position which, after allowing for depreciation and income-tax, showed a surplus of £103,588 which, added to the amount brought forward, increased the excess of income over expenditure to £266,077 10s. Proceeding to deal with the results obtained during the year, he said:—

Your interests in the Punjab continue to make sound progress. Certain types of American cotton are being grown and with considerable success, the seed from which is supplied to the Agricultural Department or direct to the cultivators, and last season sufficient was distributed to plant 100,000 acres. A new power saw-ginning plant has been completed and is dealing successfully with the past season's crop. The Punjab company has established its own buying agency and the tenants' cotton is purchased at premiums over the market rate. The acreage under American types last season in the Punjab is a record, and the total estimated output in British districts is approximately 350,000 bales.

Excellent progress has been made in the Sudan where over 46,000 bales were produced. The great dam at Makwar has now been completed and the contractors are to be congratulated upon their success in overcoming the serious obstacles and finishing the barrage in good time for this season's crops. Similarly, the Sudan Plantations Syndicate are deserving of praise for the excellent work accomplished in getting the minor canals ready and the land ploughed for the planting of nearly 100,000 acres this month. It is an interesting fact that they have also already succeeded in getting all of the tenants for this largely increased acreage. The Tokar and Kassala districts also show steady progress and the cotton is of a very excellent quality. A further pleasing feature is the large increase in the rain-grown cotton in the Blue Nile and Nuba Mountain Provinces, where a crop is being grown by people who formerly produced little or nothing. One of your vice-presidents, my son, Lord Stanley, visited the Sudan this last winter and has authorised me to say he was immensely pleased with the progress being made in cotton-growing, and there is no doubt that this industry is proving itself a useful civiliser.

In mentioning this great country I must say how much we all deplore the loss by death of Sir Lee Stack. His charming personality had endeared him to everyone with whom he came into contact, and his knowledge of the interests of cotton-growing were of the greatest value. We shall greatly miss his valuable services.

The production of cotton in Iraq last year amounted to 2,500 bales, which is an appreciable advance, and to deal with this the association has installed a large modern ginnery. There is no doubt Iraq has possibilities, and there are many parts of the country where cotton can be successfully grown, and there is no reason why the results should not steadily improve. The main factors which hinder cotton cultivation are: (1) the lack of irrigation, and (2) the salinity of the soil owing to the absence of drainage, and until such time as these defects are made good it will not be possible to have very large areas of land under cultivation with any reasonable assurance of success.

The total result for 1924, excluding India, amounts to 261,900 bales, as compared with 179,500 bales for 1923, which I think you will agree proves real progress. At the last annual meeting, Sir Frank Forbes Adam (and who by the way I am sorry to say is suffering from a grave indisposition just now), who deputised for me, estimated the results for this past year would reach the quarter of a million mark, which you will see has been exceeded. Now as regards the present year, unfortunately we shall not get the benefit in our returns for 1925 of the crop resulting from the completion of the Makwar Dam. Nevertheless, I think we may estimate a further increase of 100,000 bales, and by December, 1926, we shall certainly reach the half million.

The whole question of cotton-growing within the Empire is largely, if not solely, bound up with adequate transport facilities—chiefly railways. For many years the B.C.G.A. has taken a leading part in pressing this question upon the Governments of the day, and I am glad that in the report of the East African Commission, which was appointed by Mr. J. H. Thomas, great stress is laid upon the urgent necessity of railway extensions in our East African Colonies and Protectorates. The commission suggested a loan of 10 millions sterling—interest for the first few years being found by the Imperial Government until the railways are established. As a large part of this money will be spent on railway material in this country our engineering and other trades will benefit, and possibly savings made in unemployment relief. Whilst endorsing the commission's conclusions, I should like to go further and suggest that the amount of the loan should be 20 millions sterling—the additional 10 millions being used for similar facilities in West Africa. Part of this money might also be usefully spent in providing additional medical services to deal with disease, more technical education, etc.

The value of the new Empire growth produced last year was estimated at £8,373,200. Now the question has been asked how much the increase of cotton is due to the B.C.G.A. It is of course difficult, if not impossible, to apportion the quantity directly due to our work; on the other hand, we were responsible for the very earliest efforts. In those days the Colonies were without the Departments of Agriculture and not much transport was available, and it was largely owing to our representations that these were supplied. We had also to guarantee prices in West Africa and some other places and to run serious risks of losing large sums of money owing to a slump in the market; but on no occasion did we ever let the native grower down. Therefore the industry does naturally owe a great deal to our initiative. At the same time, little would have resulted without the valuable assistance freely given by the great public Departments in London, the Governors, Administrative officers and Agricultural Departments of our Colonies and Dependencies, and I want here to give them every credit and our most grateful thanks for the willing and unfailing help given to the cotton-growing industry.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 737.—Vol. XXVII. THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925.

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"THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

The change in the title of this Journal, which has already been announced as impending, will take place with the next issue, that of July 2. As the objects with which this change is being made have already been stated in some detail in the original announcement, we need only express the hope that our readers will find in "The Near East and India," in addition to the features that characterised "The Near East" in the past, a well-informed and reliable guide to opinion on the many important questions, both political and economic, now presented in India.

In this issue the section on Indian Affairs, which will be found on pages 673-6, contains Special Letters from Calcutta and Simla, Notes on Current Indian Topics, and Financial Information under the heading "Indian Exchange." This latter item will be a feature of the Section each week.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Greco-Turkish Agreement.

After many vicissitudes peace has been formally re-established between Greece and Turkey by the signature of a treaty which adjusts the outstanding points of difference between the two countries—the purchase by Greece of expropriated or abandoned Moslem properties and the regulation of the position of Greek residents in Constantinople. In spite of the drastic methods by which a return to amicable relations has been made possible, there is compensation to be found in a state of affairs that leaves each country, so far as their nationals are concerned, severely to itself. Greece will be stronger in every way for having to look inward instead of outward, and already more seems to have been done for the material well-being of the land in twelve months than in the previous twelve years. As for the Turks, it is too soon to speak with any confidence. Their efforts at nation-building have up to the present not been conspicuously successful. The intentions of their rulers, as expressed in public speeches, are admirable; but practice seems to lag a long way behind. One of the latest exponents of the new order is the Minister of Justice, who has declared: "We wish that our laws should be drawn up according to the methods and principles of civilised Western nations. We form a modern and civilised nation, and we will prove equal to the demands of our century." Yet the Constitution of the Republic would appear to rest on very insecure foundations, when its provisions can be so easily set aside to allow Tribunals of Independence to curtail personal liberty on grounds that would not pass muster in the West. In the economic sphere it is difficult to discover that the policy of the Turkish Government has been equal to the demands of the moment, to say nothing of looking far enough ahead to envisage the demands of the century. No one wishes to put a spoke in the Turkish republican wheel, yet xenophobia is preached and practised as if it mattered to the world under what Constitution Turkey lives, provided only that she is peacefully and efficiently governed.

Bolshevist Propaganda.

Attention has long been directed to the anomaly of Vienna's immunity as a distributing centre for Bolshevist propaganda. It seemed strange that, while Austria was relying upon the good will of the Allied Powers to remedy her financial difficulties, not one of them should have ventured a word of remonstrance against the abuse of Austrian hospitality by the Soviet authorities. The Yugoslav Government, however, has at last taken the initiative and has called upon Austria to put an end to a state of affairs which is certainly adding to the difficulties of Balkan States, if not of larger Powers. The question is probably one for the joint consideration of all the Governments of Central and South-Eastern Europe, with a view to arriving at concerted action. It may, for instance, be difficult to draw an adequate distinction between the lucubrations of a publication such as the *Journal Fédération Balkanique*, which has been making its appearance in Vienna, and the document recently issued from Belgrade by the Bulgarian *émigrés*, the ex-Ministers N. Athanassoff and Chr. Stoyonoff, in which these members of the Bulgarian Peasant Popular Union, after dismissing the

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Cathedral outrage in Sofia as an "act of despair," describe the heads of the Zankoff Ministry as "*meurtriers par excellence*" and prescribe for them the fate of assassins. We should be sorry to see opportunities of asylum curtailed for Balkan politicians, but it would contribute to the peace of the Peninsula, if all the States concerned pledged themselves to require political exiles to pass farther afield so as to reduce the temptation for intrigue. If any exceptions are made, the question becomes merely one of degree. MM. Oboff and Athanassoff may claim the same privileges as were given to Ahmed Bey Zogu, and Soviet officials in Vienna may declare that they are not one whit worse than the Bulgarian ex-Ministers.

The Labour Party and Bulgaria.

The dividing line between "interest in" and "interference with" is always hard to draw. It is conceivable that if the Executive of the British Parliamentary Labour Party had passed a resolution congratulating the Bulgarian Government on the gallant stand that it was making against Communist machinations, its action would have evoked an expression of thanks from Sofia. What has actually happened, however, is that the same Executive has seen fit to record that it "views" (sic) with grave apprehension "reports" with respect to the prosecution and persecution, not only of persons who on the slightest grounds are suspected of being connected with organisations advocating or resorting to violence, but also of persons against whom the holding of political opinions contrary to those of the Government is the only charge that can properly be made. Labour opinion, it is added, is "shocked" at the severity of the sentences inflicted upon political prisoners and particularly at the practice of public execution to cow opinion in Bulgaria. Not unnaturally a resolution of this nature is regarded in Sofia as an unwarrantable interference with Bulgaria's domestic affairs; for it is unlikely that on the matter in question the Balkan attitude and the point of view of the British pacifist would coincide. Moreover, thanks to the garbled version of events in Bulgaria given by peripatetic representatives of the Labour Party, there is the conviction that the latter has no real knowledge of the matter which it makes the subject of its strictures. The wise man in a case of this nature treads warily, for he has no means of knowing to what extent his information of events abroad is truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, or merely a highly coloured report. At best the Labour executive's resolution suggests an interest in Bulgarian affairs, for which it is to be hoped the existence of Communist organisations in the country is not the sole reason. Other bodies of opinion in England may refrain from passing resolutions, but will none the less be watching closely the progress of events in Bulgaria. One of the difficulties of the Sofia Government is that they have had to make arrests on the strength of Communist official lists of unknown date. There was a time when Communist clubs were not taboo and attracted members, who subsequently left them when the purpose of the clubs was better understood. Their names, however, would not be removed from the club list and will now have been used as evidence against them. Where such a case may arise the golden rule must be to make it a policy to give the benefit of the doubt as much as possible, if only to avoid supplying the opponents of the Government with fresh recruits.

King Boris.

According to *The Times* correspondent in Paris, arrangements are being made for an official visit of King Boris of Bulgaria to the French capital during October. Advantage, it is to be hoped, will be taken of this visit to extend an invitation to the King to visit London. King Boris came to the throne in October 1918, and since that time has not been outside Bulgaria. He has won for himself in this period the esteem and affection of all his people, and to-day he commands the respect of Europe as a young Soverign who has played a difficult part with unswerving loyalty to the War verdict, with supreme devotion to his country's interests and with consummate tact. To these qualities he adds a personal charm of character which assures him a genuine welcome whatever country he may visit.

A subscription form will be found on page 696.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Iron and Steel.

Last week there occurred what may be the first step in a long and new path of English history: the iron and steel trades applied for protection under the Safeguarding Bill. This request raises, of course, practically the whole question of Protection, because, owing to the results of its being granted upon many other industries, a general tariff would be inevitable.

Whether the country will welcome the prospect there is little means of gauging. Certainly there are members in the Labour Party to whom the idea commends itself, but as a whole the Party does not yet seem to be convinced by the evidence of the trades desiring protection. The granting or the denial of this request of the Iron and Steel trades will assuredly be a question over which many words will be flowing in the next months. Debates in the Commons, for instance, are never so good as when there is something concrete to be argued about.

Unemployment.

Whatever the reason—some attributing it to the tenure of office by the Labour Party, some to the Conservative Administration, and the wisest of all, probably, to neither, the figures for unemployment are growing worse. Nearly a quarter of a million more are on the dole than at this time last year. Of course the problem cannot be solved by party measures: it is even doubtful whether national measures would ultimately dispel it.

The fact about this unemployment problem of ours which should always be remembered, and, especially, pondered over, is that it comes about through the fault of no particular Government and of no particular men or measures. Some observers—the most superficial—point to the short-sightedness of the Trade Unions, or to the greed of the masters, but even were the Trade Unionists to forgo their possibly myopic tendencies and the employers to develop a seriously corporate consciousness, the problem would remain. It is scarcely the successful system of Capitalism that must be put up to be defended against the nightmare of Bolshevism.

The Coal Industry.

The coal-owners have decided to terminate their agreement with the miners—a decision which has been received on the one side, with suspicion and dismay, and on the other, with pleasure and praise. Whether the public as a whole greatly interests itself in the condition (which seems to have been steadily deteriorating) of the coal industry is doubtful; it sits up now and then to read some whirling words of Mr. A. J. Cook, and then sinks back again to consider the prowess of Hobbs and the general study of "form." The fact, remains, however, that a very serious situation indeed may arise out of this decision. If what in effect would be a universal lock-out comes about, there would be the most admirable opportunity for Bolshevist intrigue among the workers—of which we are hearing so much (and believing so little) nowadays—but it is hoped that so open a proclamation of opposing interests may still not be made.

Ministers and the Press.

At last the Prime Minister has been prevailed upon to give a definite statement on the question of Cabinet Ministers writing for the Press. With a partial exception for the exceptional case of the exceptional Lord Birkenhead, the rule now again exists that Ministers in office may not contribute to journalism.

This ruling is, of course, the only sensible one: the pity is that it had to be extracted and was not voluntarily enforced. Those papers which benefited by the writing of Ministers are attributing their loss to the representations

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to the Government of *The Times* and the *Morning Post*, and very probably they are right. The influence of the Press over the Government in regard to the Press is a very queer thing, changing, naturally, with the various Administrations.

The Chancellorship of Oxford.

One cannot help sympathising with Oxford University in its fight over the Chancellorship. No sooner had assurance been given that the candidature of the Earl of Oxford and Asquith was supported on all sides, that we learned that the unpliable Conservatives of the place had decided to put forward Lord Cave as a rival candidate.

The unhappy aspect of the matter is that the fight appears to be degenerating into a party affair. One would scarcely have thought that cultured men would have made of a cultural appointment a political question: but so it is. And the partisan Press persists in treating political principles as if they were of the slightest import in a University.

Wembley.

Suggestions are still being made whereby the guarantors of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley may be let down less lightly than now appears probable. Most of these are concerned with the price of admission; so far, however, no satisfactory charge of admission has been fixed.

The experiment is now for all intents and purposes over, and people are already discussing what shall be done with the vast buildings that have been erected at Wembley. Apparently everyone is agreed that some use must be made of the Palaces of Engineering and of Industry, and the interesting suggestion has been made that Wembley should be the permanent home of the engineering section of the South Kensington Museum, although certain halls might yet be reserved for various colonial commercial exhibits. If this were done, some of the Whitehall offices might be moved to Kensington. It is also proposed that London University be given the vacated South Kensington Museum and Imperial Institute. Whatever is ultimately done, however, it is as certain as anything can be, that there will be no exhibition similar to this year's in the Wembley of 1926.

Midsummer.

The summer now is at its height—Sunday was Mid-Summer's Day. One has noticed the day this year, because we really have had summer with us. June has been one blazing glory. We shall not mind now the mellowing down of the year into the mists and colours of autumn.

Cricket.

All the world has been talking cricket during these sunny days; there can be no one who does not know how near Hobbs has come to "W.G.'s" record of centuries, that Tate has taken his hundred wickets, or how Cambridge University so gloriously beat Surrey.

The progress of Cambridge in the last few weeks has probably been the most heartening feature, from the amateur's point of view, of the cricket of June. For the University side may well give to England a player or two who is good enough to play against the Australians next year. But to suggest that the Light Blues will easily beat Oxford when they meet next month at Lords' would be very risky.

Wimbledon.

There is not quite such a dazzling array of names in the entries for Wimbledon, which began its tournaments yesterday, as there has been in the past few years, but most of the Continental celebrities have come over, including Morpurgo of Italy and Von Kehrling of Hungary. Moreover, J. O. Anderson, the Australian who has beaten both Johnston and Tilden, is here; and the two "latest" from America, Ray Casey and John Hennessey. And of the women, when one has said that Mlle. Lenglen has again entered, that is enough.

Most people are placing the final between Anderson, Borotra, Lacoste, and Gilbert. Certainly the prospects of France are very bright.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred recently of M. Jean Homolle, the eminent excavator of Delos and Delphi. He began his great work at Delphi in 1892 and finally left the School of Athens in 1913.

M. Canter Cremers, the chairman of the Nile Water Commission, which was appointed in January to report on the use of the water of the Blue Nile for irrigation in the Sudan with full consideration of the interests in Egypt, died in Cairo last Sunday. He had been ill since the end of May.

The death has occurred, in his native island of Syra, of M. Periklês G. Zerlentes, the eminent mediæval scholar, aged 72. After some years spent in business in London, M. Zerlentes devoted the rest of his life to research into the Frankish and Turkish history of the Archipelago, about which he published numerous treatises.

The death occurred on June 18 at her residence, Broadwater Lodge, Wimbledon, of Lady Parkington, widow of Sir John Roper Parkington, who died last year. Lady Parkington was during the War actively engaged in work in connection with the Montenegrin Red Cross, and was awarded for her services the Order of Civil Merit and the Red Cross of Montenegro.

Major-General Sir Oliver Richard Archer Julian, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., formerly R.A.M.C., died at South Molton, N. Devon, on June 14, aged 62. He was with the Zakka Khel Expedition and the Mohmand Expedition of 1908. Sir Oliver was physician and surgeon at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, from 1913 to 1915, and then served in France and Belgium, being mentioned in despatches and awarded the C.B. From 1917 to 1919 he was D.D.M.S., Western Command, and received the C.B.E., and then went to Mesopotamia as Director of Medical Services, when he was again mentioned in despatches and created K.B.E.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

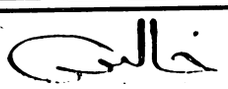
H.M.S. Delhi has arrived at Port Said on June 20 from Akaba, with King Hussein, his Consort, Queen Gellaleta, and his suite on board, bound for Cyprus.

The school which the Regent, Prince Tafari of Abyssinia, has built and equipped at Addis Abeba out of his private purse was opened by him on May 2.

Persian regular troops from Teheran recently reached the Meshed-Bujnurd area, where the Turkomans are now quieter. Over the border, in Soviet Central Asia, there is reported to be a dearth of grain, and supplies are being imported from the valley of the Volga.

The Seyyid Hilal es Senussi, who without permission has entered Egypt from Libya, has been ordered to leave the country.

With reference to a statement that appeared in a letter from Iraq in THE NEAR EAST of May 21, further information received from Baghdad states that no car belonging to the Nairn Transport Company in the mail service between Beyrout and Baghdad has ever overturned. On one occasion a car failed to avoid a large stone and the sump was knocked off the engine. The accident caused the passengers to be shaken, and one lady received a severe bruise on the nose. Information was subsequently received by the Nairn Transport Company that, by the time the lady in question had reached Marseilles, the effects of the bruise had passed.



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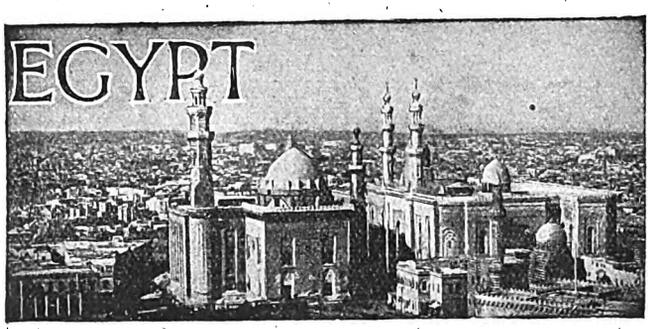
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, June 14.

The Turf Club.

Of all the many public dinners and luncheons to which Lord Allenby has been entertained during the past fortnight none seemed to give him greater pleasure than that of the members of the Turf Club on Wednesday evening. Indeed, Lord Allenby afterwards remarked to one of his staff that he had particularly enjoyed the gathering, and especially the spontaneous warmth and cordiality of the atmosphere. It has been no secret that during the past few years some of the most severe criticism of the departing High Commissioner's policy has originated in the Turf Club, a fact to which Mr. Clark Kerr referred in a speech in which he cleverly "ragged" the hosts of the evening. At the Residency, he said, they had always had foremost in their minds, when on the brink of taking an important decision, "What will the Turf Club think of this?" It was the first speech that most of those present had ever heard the Counsellor at the Residency make, and the note of good-humoured raillery which he struck was maintained by other speakers during the evening which, by general consent, was a most successful one.

Lord Allenby disclosed a fact until then unknown by almost everyone, that he was in Egypt thirty-three years ago as a tourist and was present in Abdin Square at the swearing-in of troops for the accession of the Khedive Abbas Hilmy.

Egyptians and Lord Allenby.

The very remarkable demonstrations of Egyptian esteem for the departing High Commissioner, which have been the outstanding feature of the past few weeks reached their culmination in Cairo streets and on the railway station platform this evening, for the crowd which lined the route from the Residency to Bab el Hadid Square, though not vocally demonstrative (the only man who has moved an Egyptian crowd to cheers during the last few years has been Zaghloul Pasha), was very friendly indeed, and there were rounds of handclapping as the familiar Rolls-Royce, with Union Jack flying from the mudguards and surrounded by the 16/5th Lancers, with two flights of aeroplanes overhead, passed slowly by towards the station. Inside, the predominantly Egyptian note persisted, for although there was a good muster of the British Community and a representative gathering of the diplomatic corps and of other foreign elements, tarboushes and turbans outnumbered hats in the proportion of two or three to one.

The Work of Lord Allenby.

Comparisons between the work in Egypt of Lord Cromer and that of Lord Allenby are impossible, for the difference in conditions with which they had to deal was as great as in the number of years they spent in the country, but the contrast between Egyptian feeling towards the two British representatives at the time of their going has been everywhere remarked upon. Whatever may be the ultimate judgment of history upon British policy in Egypt during the last six years, there can be no gainsaying the extraordinary impression which the personality of Lord Allenby has made upon the Egyptian mind.

Political Questions.

The change in High Commissioners comes at a time of political quiescence. The future status of Jarabub and the promulgation of a new Electoral Law are the only two political questions of importance that demand immediate action. The next move in the matter of the Egypto-Tripolitan frontier lies with the Italian Government, which has been invited to nominate representatives to begin discussions. The framing of the new Electoral Law is reported to be progressing satisfactorily on the basis of a two-stage election, as embodied in the original law, but with the addition of qualifications for elector delegates which would restrict voting in the final stage to persons either possessing some small property or else holding various educational certificates. A member of the commission which is drafting the law stated the other day that promulgation would take place very shortly, but that the elections could not be held before November.

Egyptian Irrigation.

Yesterday was a great day for Egyptian irrigation, for the Council of Ministers approved total credits of £E5,100,000 for Gebel Aulia and Nag Hamadi dams, of which £E.3,000,000 is allocated to the former. The present Government is showing a most enterprising spirit where public works are concerned and has approved in principle the report of Mr. Dupuis, which envisages, in addition to the two barrages named, the canalisation of the Sudd area and the conversion of Lake Albert Nyanza into a huge reservoir.

Prospects of a high Nile are now good, if yesterday's report of a rise of one metre 25 cms. in one day at Roseires is any indication. Such a rise in twenty-four hours is quite unprecedented, but it may be only a "false rise," such as often occurs at the beginning of the flood season, and which disappears within a few hours of its being registered.

Obituaries.

Two prominent Egyptians have died during the past week, the first Badr el Din Pasha, Inspector General of Prisons, in the train near Paris, on his way to attend the Prisons Conference in London, and the second Adolphe Bey Cattaoui, in his office at the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was Secretary, and for which he had given years of devoted work, with the result that the Society is now one of the "livest" of Egypt's learned societies. Badr el Din Pasha at one time incurred the hatred of the extremists because of his willingness to work, during times of political strikes by Government

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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officials, in co-operation with the British authorities, and on account of the zeal with which, as Director-General of Public Security, he prosecuted the inquiries into political crimes. For his devotion to duty he was twice attacked by political criminals and once dangerously wounded, while later on he was placed on pension, being brought back to the service, in his new appointment, when Ismail Sidky Pasha became Minister of the Interior.

Wireless Schemes.

The newly constituted Wireless Committee of the Ministry of Communications held its first meeting yesterday, and it begins to look as though the Government, after two years of refusing to tackle the subject, may at last do something. Major General Sir Graham Bowman Manifold is at present in Egypt on behalf of Messrs. Marconi who, it is understood, are interested in securing a broadcasting concession.

Communism and Egypt.

The inquiry into the activities of the local "Reds," represented by the score of Communists lately arrested, makes slow progress, owing to the Parquet's pre-occupation with political crimes, and despite the seizure of much literature and correspondence, it seems doubtful whether the affair will develop into the first-class sensation which was at first promised. The most important discovery made hitherto seems to be the extremely little support which the Communists have yet been able to win among Egyptian working-men.

Liubliana, June 8.

Internal Politics.

Internal politics in Yugoslavia have once more undergone a quick change. To all appearances the understanding between Croats and Radicals was already a fact, when suddenly matters took an unexpected turn, and to-day the question of agreement is once more at the stage it had reached two months ago.

The underlying reason for this is as follows.

It is M. Pashitch with whom lies the last word in the Radical Club. His authority is practically absolute, and it really does not matter what the Club, apart from himself, thinks. All who expected an agreement between the Radicals and the Raditch deputies, fell into the mistake of taking into account only the tendencies in the Radical Club, and not the personal views of M. Pashitch. He allowed, nay, encouraged the Radical deputies to prosecute their negotiations with the Croats, the while he wrapped himself in inscrutable silence, even at the moment when Radicals from among his closest *entourage* were dropping very positive statements about the forthcoming agreement. Those unofficial negotiations made visible progress, and an understanding had been reached on all points but one. It must be admitted at once, that this one point was a most important one, viz., the question of the Independent Democrats. The Croats declared quite frankly that they flatly refused to be in any Government with the Independent Democrats. The result was the struggle between Independent Democrats and Raditch adherents for the favour of the Radical Party, which still means, in fact, of M. Pashitch, each party loudly accusing the other of intriguing in its own interests and to the detriment of the State and nation. Then M. Pashitch entered the lists and began to play off the rivals against each other. He succeeded so well that within a very short time he found himself in the position of arbiter. Would he declare for M. Pribitchevitch's adherents or for those of M. Raditch? In no case was the choice simple or easy. M. Pashitch delayed, and the longer he delayed, the stronger grew his influence. He delayed deliberately. On the one hand he wanted to bind the Independent Democrats still more closely to himself so that their Press should hail him as the saviour of the situation. M. Pribitchevitch did him that favour, and herewith the way is paved in case M. Pashitch should desire the mandates of the Independent Democrats to be annexed by the Radicals. (As a matter of fact, it should be borne in mind that these two parties are really in very close harmony as to principle; wherefore it is not at all strange that M. Pashitch should hesitate long before deciding to drop a dependable ally in favour of a doubtful alliance; that the old ally is not dangerously powerful may even be a recommendation. And certainly M. Raditch has so far proved a disruptive element in every combination to which he has been admitted.)

On the other hand, M. Pashitch was getting one concession after another out of the Croats, and thereby he even scored the advantage that concord in the Croatian camp suffered in proportion as the concessions became more ample. In the end, a positive breach between M. Raditch's adherents and the Croatian *bloc* came to be spoken of quite openly. For similar reasons, relations between the Raditch group and the Opposition grew less cordial, so that the Bloc for National Agreement and Peasant Democracy, which had promised so much, and of which such great things had been hoped, is already looked upon in some quarters as on the point of collapse.

And so M. Pashitch's plan has been made clear:—First, he wanted to induce the Croats to make concessions so great that on the one hand the Radical Party in Serbia might triumph and on the other they were bound to lead to dissension in the Croatian ranks. And secondly, he wanted to delay the agreement until the laws now before the Skupshtina had been passed, and a new electoral order and a new electoral geometry enabled the Radical Party to safeguard its predominance even in the case of fresh elections.

The Croats had calculated differently. For one thing, they look upon the laws in question as gravely reactionary and were determined to prevent their being passed, for fear that these laws should *de facto* paralyse all political activity on their—the Croats'—part. And therefore they were prepared to make the most generous concessions. For another thing, they did not wish to carry the struggle to extremes, for it was clear that there was no choice but agreement, or war to the knife.

The New Laws.

In order to understand the efforts of the Croats to prevent the passing of the newly-projected laws, a few words concerning the drafts are perhaps necessary. There is first of all the Press Law. Its critics say that its provisions are untenable and that in effect every Opposition paper will find itself in an impossible position. According to the draft, a newspaper might conceivably be fined a matter of 50,000 dinars for publishing a speech made in

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the Skupshtina, and the responsible Editor sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three years into the bargain. The draft as it stands is said to bristle with impracticable provisions (e.g., as regards the length of time permitted for the production of proofs in support of statements published in a paper), and, apparently, in future a Yugoslav journalist may get into severe trouble for libelling even the President of the Soviet Republic, although the Soviet Republic is not recognised by Yugoslavia! In short, the draft of the new Press Law is very unpopular in some quarters, especially with the Press. On the other hand, it is only fair to add that outside journalist circles, and (to some extent) among journalists who are not of the Opposition, the new Press Law is not so harshly judged. On the contrary, it is described as providing at last, and none too soon, some protection for the public at large, and public personages in particular, against the hitherto almost untrammelled liberty of the Press to indulge in personalities. Meanwhile, the draft is sure to undergo considerable changes before the law is passed; and it may be as well to suspend judgment until the final form of it is definitely laid before the Skupshtina.

Immediately after the Press Law, the Law relating to Societies and Assemblages will be brought in. The Press Law, one is told, will make it impossible for the Opposition to voice its views in print, and this second law will prevent it from expressing itself by word of mouth. Next comes the Law regulating the position of the judges. This, it is alleged by its critics, will encroach upon the independence of judges, by making them liable to be transferred without their own consent. Meanwhile, it is urgently necessary that the salaries of judges should be adequately raised, and it is to be hoped that the new law will provide for this. Both laws, however, are still in the draft, and there will be plenty of time and opportunity for amendment before they are passed. The Agrarian Credits Law has just been passed with a considerable majority. Opinions as to its usefulness are divided. In pro-Government circles it is approved, and among the Opposition it is described as being calculated to make the peasant dependent upon the Government.

In any case it is perfectly intelligible that the Raditch deputies would wish to prevent the passing of these laws, or at least to amend them considerably before passing.

All the same it is not probable that the Raditch Party is prepared to pay too high a price for a chance of obstructing the new laws: it cannot commit suicide, and therefore it is probable that it will avoid the complete capitulation before M. Pashitch.

Hence the question arises: Will M. Pashitch meet the Croats over the agreement, or will he delay negotiations until the autumn? The latter course seems the more probable.

Meanwhile, M. Raditch has to reply to the question whether his future path lies with the Radicals or with the Opposition. The first course would mean peace in Yugoslav internal politics and a certain gain in any case; the second would lead to most bitter struggles, which would probably end in a victory for the Opposition.

Sofia, June 16.

The Situation.

There has been a welcome lull in violent events during the past two or three weeks. Several Military Courts Martial are engaged in trying Communists arrested in April. Colonel Miltenoff, a senior engineer officer, has been condemned to death for his share in the conspiracy whilst others, many of them *in contumacia*, have also been sentenced to death.

Pertchemlieff was duly hanged in Sofia last week, but Eugène Leger and Mme. Nicolova were reprieved, having their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. It is understood that this commuting was the result of diplomatic *démarches* made by the French Legation.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

The recent declarations of M. Nintchitch, Yugoslav Foreign Minister, regarding the relations between the two countries, have been much commented on here. M. Nintchitch was interpellated by M. Marinkovitch, a former Foreign Minister, whose attitude towards Bulgaria had hitherto been friendly but who seems somewhat to have changed. M. Nintchitch, while confirming that Yugoslavia was definitely opposed to any increase in the size of the Bulgarian Army, added that Yugoslavia viewed with sympathy the struggle which M. Zankoff's Government is waging against Bolshevism.

In general, the tone of M. Nintchitch's speech was a good deal more friendly than his previous utterances. Thus its reception in Sofia has been good, but at the same time there are many Bulgarians who cannot help feeling that the recent rupture of the Yugoslav-Greek negotiations for a Treaty of Alliance, is perhaps partly responsible for the friendliness of M. Nintchitch's speech. For there is no doubt that until Yugoslavia and Greece come to a thorough understanding between themselves, there will be occasional coquettings between Belgrade and Sofia and conceivably between Athens and Sofia. There are some people who think that it will be a good thing for Bulgaria if Yugoslavia and Greece fail to reach an understanding, as Bulgaria may profit thereby. On the other hand, there is a more farsighted view which believes that it is essential for Yugoslavia and Greece amicably to settle their differences and thus ensure Balkan peace—an event which will prove of the greatest benefit to Bulgaria. Unhappily there does not seem to be any great chance of Yugoslavs and Greeks coming to an agreement, but it would be a mistake to imagine that in her present condition Bulgaria can play any important rôle in this matter.

Bulgaria's Northern Neighbour.

The attitude of Roumania towards Bulgaria is in striking contrast to that of Greece and Yugoslavia. Roumania is distinctly friendly, has been so, and is likely to remain so. The reasons for this are twofold. First of all, because there is no Macedonian problem for Roumania and Bulgaria to deal with, and secondly, because Roumania always

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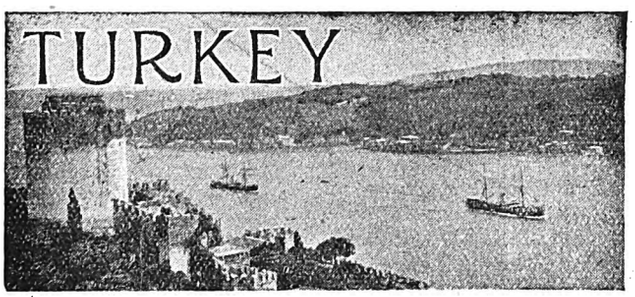
fears that trouble may break out in Bessarabia—in which case it is essential for her to be on good terms with her Southern neighbour, namely Bulgaria. However, there are one or two outstanding questions to be settled between the two countries, notably that of the status of Bulgarian subjects in the Dobruja. The present Roumanian Minister Sofia, M. Bilciouresco, has been entrusted with the mission to settle these matters, but so far not very much progress nas been made. In this connection a good deal of surprise is felt at the attitude of the Bulgarian Government in not sending a Minister to Bucharest. For over a year this appointment has lain vacant, and it is considered that such a state of affairs is not altogether conducive to good relations.

Excessive Rain.

A month or two ago the farmers in Bulgaria were praying for rain. Now they are praying that it will stop, as there has been far too much, and in some places a good deal of damage has been done to the crops. Still the agricultural experts estimate that if there is not very much more rain both the wheat and maize crops should be well nigh "records."

News in Brief.

The Macedonian vendetta has been responsible for another murder this week. Pancho Mihailoff, a notorious Komitaji and former supporter of the Autonomist wing of the Macedonians, was assassinated in the Rue Vitoshka in Sofia. It was at first thought that the Federalist Macedonians had killed Mihailoff in revenge for the murder of Todor Panitza shot by a woman in Vienna last month. Now it appears that Mihailoff was on bad terms with the leaders of the Macedonian Autonomist Organisation, and had been actually excluded from the Organisation some time ago. In these circumstances it would appear that Mihailoff was the victim of his former friends against whom he was conspiring.



Constantinople, June 9.

A Maritime Police Force?

The Vilayet authorities have this week put forward to the Minister of the Interior a proposition regarding the creation of a Maritime Police Force to operate in the port and neighbourhood of Constantinople. This additional section of police is being formed with a view to putting an end to the extensive contraband (particularly tobacco) and fraudulent activities which have existed here for so long and which have developed to a fine art. It is also proposed that this section shall take charge of passport formalities in addition to their ordinary police duties. The Customs Department will work in conjunction with the Maritime Police, whose elaborate organisation includes the acquisition of a number of new and very fast armed motor-boats.

Coastal motor boats are to constitute a very important part in Turkey's new naval defence scheme, and everything points to the fact that the orders for these will soon be placed anywhere but in England, as British representation appears to lack sufficient persuasion in the right quarters.

Libraries.

The results of an enumeration of valuable works and manuscripts of the national and mosque libraries made recently by the competent authorities have given rise to much criticism and expression of disappointment by interested circles. Whilst the total number of manuscripts still corresponds with the figures of the official catalogues, it has been discovered that some hundreds of the ancient and exceedingly valuable works have been substituted by fraudulent copies, the originals having been sold to foreign collectors. This substitution has been renedered comparatively easy in view of the fact that the librarians and library guards, being so badly paid, have neglected their work in order to supplement their earnings by other work, thus frequently leaving their charges at the complete mercy of the public. These circumstances make it particularly galling to the experts and enthusiasts, especially when this off-hand attention is compared with the elaborate care exercised by the British Museum and the Biblothèque Nationale of Paris in preserving Turkish treasures, which, it is held, are appreciated less by Turkey than by any other country.

A Statue of the President.

Another example of the reform which is daily becoming more evident in Turkey is given in the Prefecture's decision to erect, in the park on Seraglio Point, a statue of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. This statue, which will be the first to adorn Constantinople, is to be the work of M. Heinrich Kerpil, an Austrian sculptor, and will, it is expected, be erected in September next. Up to the moment this decision has gone unchallenged, but there will doubtless be some discontented and bitter comment passed on the subject by a remaining few who still hold in reverence the passage in the Koran which states "Verily, wine, and games of chance, and statues, and divining arrows, are an abomination of Satan's device," and who fear the visitation of Mohammed's curse on "the painter or drawer of men and animals."

The Ghazi as Farmer.

The Ghazi has, since the beginning of the Assembly's recess, been devoting himself to experimental farming, and is personally directing the laying out of a model farm. The President's principal desire is to demonstrate to the peasant farmers the unlimited advantages of the use of petrol-motor driven agricultural machinery, and has for this purpose numerous machines actually working at present, including one of 80 h.p. A project is also on foot for the construction of a village near Angora with an agricultural school and model farms for the training of peasants; this scheme also is of the Ghazi's origination.

Bridge Tolls.

Doctor Emine Bey, like all his predecessors, is attempting to solve the question regarding the abolition of bridge tolls for the Galata and Azap-Capou bridges over the Golden Horn. The abolition of this long borne nuisance presents, however, some considerable difficulty, as these bridge receipts are the security for the 600,000 liras loan from the National Bank of Turkey. The Prefect's idea is to substitute the bridge tolls with a restaurant tax, and thus assure the necessary revenue, but before this can be put in operation many more thousands of people will have crossed this "bridge of all nations."

IRAQ.

Baghdad, June 10.

Parliament.

An early assembly of the Mejliss is now certain, though the actual date is still unsettled. It is probable that only urgent business will be transacted before a postponement of further sessions to the end of the hot weather. The

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Senate or Upper House, of which the members are to be nominated by the King, is still not yet constituted. Two vacancies in the Cabinet, the posts of Minister of Justice and Minister of Defence, are generally expected to be filled before Parliament meets; the vernacular Press nominates Subih Beg Nashat for Defence, and has a number of suggestions for Justice. At present the portfolio of Justice as well as his own Communications and Works is being held by Muzahim Beg, and that of Defence by the Prime Minister.

Suleimaniyeh.

On May 20 a large band of Sheikh Mahmoud's followers made a fierce attack on a cavalry regiment of Levies which was marching to take over the garrison of Halebja. Fighting was continuous during the day, but with the assistance of aeroplanes of No. 1 Squadron, R.A.F., the tribesmen were driven off, though not before they had inflicted a number of casualties and captured some booty from hired transport. Enemy casualities were heavy, and the conduct of the Levies, who were in action for the first time, is reported to have been admirable.

Guerilla fighting still continues round Suleimaniyeh. An encounter on the night of June 4, resulted in the death from a sniper's bullet of Captain Coffey, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, attached Iraq Army. The body of this gallant and efficient officer was brought by aeroplane to Baghdad for burial in the British cemetery.

Nouri Said Pasha, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Iraq Army, has left this week for Suleimaniyeh, where Sheikh Mahmoud's skilful leadership, aided by his knowledge of the mountains, makes the situation far from satisfactory.

Iraq Imports to Persia.

Consternation has been caused in Baghdad among the merchant community by the news that the Persian Government intends to establish as a Government monopoly the purchase, importation, and sale throughout Persia of tea and sugar. For some time past the Persian Government has been trying to improve the natural trading road into the country by way of Mohammerah and Khoramabad, in the hope of diverting the very large import trade from the old Baghdad-Hamadan route. Sugar and tea, with cotton goods, form the most important part of Baghdad's export trade, and the blow is therefore a severe one. Further news from Teheran is anxiously awaited by the merchants, all of whom have large stocks of sugar and tea for Persia in hand. As much as possible is being rushed across the frontier before the monopoly comes into force: and this, as the panic-stricken Baghdadis will quite probably discover, may not actually take place for months, even years.

General News.

On the King's Birthday the ceremony of Trooping the Colour was performed by the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment at 6 a.m., in the presence of a large gathering of spectators—almost, in fact, the whole British community. The High Commissioner was attended at the saluting base by the Air Officer Commanding and by the Officer Commanding British troops. A most impressive ceremony ended with three cheers for the King-Emperor. In the absence of King Faisal, the Amir Ghazi was a spectator.

The appointment of Ja'far Pasha al Askari as the representative of Iraq in London is now officially announced. A secretary and two clerks are appointed to accompany him.

It is to be hoped that the gloomy prophecies of a record hot weather to balance the unparalleled cold of the winter are not going to be fulfilled. So far, a May so cool that it might have been March, and an early June in which the thermometer has never registered 110 degrees, have made the prophets fall back on "wait and see." Meanwhile the first real heat is bringing its usual crop of minor indispositions. His Majesty the King has been unable to appear in public for a week, but is now recovered; the Prime Minister has also been unwell. More serious are the cases of heat stroke reported from Hinaidi, where the R.A.F. and British troops have their headquarters. The Bedfords, the only British regiment now stationed in Baghdad, have suffered a heavy loss in the sudden death from heat stroke on June 2, of their commanding officer, Lt.-Col. Weldon D.S.O.

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PERSIA.

Teheran, May 21.

The Shah.

The position regarding the Shah is unchanged, but the marked cordiality now evident in the relations of the Prime Minister and the Royal Family gives reason for many to hope for His Majesty's early return.

Parliament at Work.

The Mejliss has been engaged since the end of Ramadan with various new Bills calculated to improve the economic situation. The most important measure is undoubtedly that destined to create a Government monopoly of tea and sugar imports, and imposing an extra tax of two krans (9½d.) per 6½ lb. of sugar and six krans (2s. 5d.) per 6½ lb. of tea. This measure has been approved by the Finance Committee and now only needs ratification by the Mejliss in a second reading to become law. The proceeds are expected to yield an additional revenue of £600,000, which has been allocated to a new fund for railway and road development. New taxes have also been imposed on tobacco and matches of all makes.

A new Commercial Law, corresponding to a General Companies Act, has been ratified and come into force, together with a Bill providing for the establishment of a proper system of registration.

A measure of minor importance, but one which has attracted great interest and popular approval, is that for the abolition of all Civil and Military titles, not specially approved by Government for the present holders on account of recent services. Family names have been revived and the papers are full of announcements on the subject. The Prime Minister led the way by renouncing all titles in favour of his present designation of Riza Khan Pahlavi.

The Sheikh of Mohammerah.

Sheikh Khazal of Mohammerah and his elder son, Sirdar Ajall, arrived on May 10 from Mohammerah with a substantial escort. It is understood that they will remain in Teheran until the Government Departments in Khuzistan are firmly established. Sirdar Ajall, who is his tribe's representative in the Mejliss, has resigned his seat on grounds of illness. It is understood that Sheikh Abdulla will officiate at Mohammerah during his father's absence. One or two of the less responsible papers have conducted a rigorous campaign against Sheikh Khazal with a view to his elimination from Khuzistan.

The Expedition Against the Turkomans.

Shortly after Sheikh Khazal's arrival, the long expected operations against the Turkoman tribes began, and columns are converging from three directions on the recalcitrant Turkomans, whose depredations have latterly become a menace. The small garrison of Bujnurd was surrounded and considerable fighting is in progress. A large part of the Teheran garrison has been sent to take part in the operations against the Turkomans, who are said to number 15,000. The tribesmen are exceedingly well armed and equipped, and it is popularly imagined that they are receiving assistance from the North.

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The American Financial Mission.

An increase to seventeen in the numbers of the American Financial Mission has been approved and presented for ratification, and details of extra pay and allowances are under debate. Six members of the present Mission have decided to resign, and the engagement of substitutes and new men to complete a total of seventeen will be effected by Dr. Millspaugh, who proceds on three months' leave almost immediately. Mr. Gore will officiate in charge during the absence of Dr. Millspaugh.

Mail Contracts.

The contract for the Baghdad-Teheran mail service has been signed with the Eastern Transport Company, and ratification is expected shortly. This company maintains a good and rapid service already, and the completion of the contract for ten years will mark a big step in the opening up of the country.

The proposals of the Junkers Aeroplane Company for a mail contract on the line Resht-Teheran-Bushire have not been accepted, and some machines have already returned with the personnel to Berlin. A few machines with several pilots remain for work with the military, in the hope of a less ambitious mail contract being given.

Miscellaneous News.

News of the death of Mr. Worral, British Consul at Tabriz, was received early in May. Mr. Worral died in Urumiah while on tour, it is believed from the effects of chronic rheumatism, a malady from which he had suffered much in recent years.

Teheran has been fortunate in receiving visits from several eminent archæologists and Oriental experts recently. Two of the French Mission at Shush (Khuzistan) are here to negotiate a revision in the terms of their concession, which was interrupted for so long by the War. Professor Pope, the American Orientalist, delivered a remarkable lecture on old Persian Art, and advantage of his visit was taken by the Persian authorities to secure a reliable estimate of the value of the 300 years old carpets in the Shrine at Kum. Photographs of the carpets were also secured for record. The value was placed at about £50,000.

Considerable curiosity exists as to the reasons for the removal of M. Shumiatsky, the ex-Soviet Minister, who left at the end of last month. M. Yuraneff, transferred from Rome, is expected here on May 20.

Mr. Hodgson, British Chargé d' Affaires in Russia, paid a short visit to Persia and returned to Petrograd *via* Baku on May 14.

The First of May Celebrations were held with great ceremony by the Soviet Legation, and the Rosta News Agency published a special edition in red. Little outside interest was shown in the celebrations. Advantage was taken of the publicity of the occasion to boom the coming Baku Fair, but from letters in the Press it appears that Persian merchants are actively opposed to participation, owing to recent experience of Soviet trade conditions generally.

THE RECENT HISTORY OF THE HEJAZ.

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, which took place at the Royal United Service Institution on June 16, the first of the Burton Memorial lectures was delivered by Mr. St. John Philby, Sir Edward Maclagan being in the chair. In introducing the lecturer as one who had graduated in the same service as he himself—the I.C.S.—and in his own province, the Punjab—the chairman also handed to Mr. Philby the bronze medal which bears the effigy of Sir Richard Burton.

Mr. Philby, in beginning his illustrated lecture upon "The Recent History of the Hejaz," explained that when he knew that he had been chosen to inaugurate this series of lectures in the memory of Burton, he determined to do something worthy of that great explorer. With this object he set out last year to realise the great dream (as a compensation for the failure of which, he said, Burton had made the pilgrimage to Mecca) of Sir Richard to explore the great southern desert of Arabia—"the empty quarter." Circumstances, however, made the project impossible, and all that he had to show was a three months' sojourn at Jeddah. There he had accumulated certain material for lecturing upon the Hejaz.

The sole *raison d'être* of the Hejaz, he said, was to batten upon the pilgrims. For long it had been merely a subordinate province of the leading Islamic Powers of the day. The conditions surrounding the *haj* might always have been bad—though it was probable that what *hajjis* most objected to was the quarantine regulations imposed by Western, civilised Powers—but at least in the later years of Turkish rule the robbing and fleecing of the pilgrims had been carried on with moderation. (It might be remembered in this connection that Burton had spoken disrespectfully of the arrangements made for pilgrims at Tor, on the Sinai peninsula). The Hejaz was happy, however, when it was not independent. Its troubles began—Mr. Philby described this as the first nail in its coffin—when the Hejaz Railway was established in 1904. This line was a most remarkable feat of engineering, and the excellencies of the work of Herr Meissner (who later constructed the unfinished Berlin-Baghdad Railway) were testified by the difficulties encountered by Colonel T. E. Lawrence during the War in demolishing sections of it, and also by the facility with which the Emir Ali repaired the southern portion of it. The second nail in the coffin of the Hejaz was driven in in 1908, when Hussein was appointed Grand Shereef of Mecca. This move had been stoutly opposed by Abdul Hamid, who exclaimed when he heard of what the young Turks had done that the Hejaz was as good as lost to Turkey. Hussein, seeing that all profits for the Hejaz would vanish if the pilgrims' railway were completed, played on the bedouin to prevent its extension farther than Medina. Next, in 1916, the British Fleet bombarded Jeddah. Now it was commonly supposed that the Hejazis were only too glad to co-operate with the British against the Turks, and that the forces of the Emir Zeid by Jeddah represented the whole population. The truth was, however, that the Arabs were not delighted to see the back of the Turks. In this connection the lecturer recounted the story, as instance of a modern example of "Arab chivalry," of Seyyid Mohammed Kamil, Governor of Jeddah. When the Arab revolt broke out he was invited by the Shereefian forces to desert the Turks and join the insurgents. His reply was that he had served the Turks for twenty-five years and did not care to desert them in their hour of need. When the Emir Zeid occupied Jeddah, however, the Governor loyally served his new masters. And when the Nejd-Hejaz quarrel broke out, an offer which came from Ibn Saoud, if he would change sides, of the Governorship of Jeddah, was rejected. But, said the lecturer, when the Wahhabis take Jeddah, Seyyid Mohammed will still remain Governor. He is the outsanding hero of the recent history of the Hejaz. To see him at work is a revelation.

In May, 1919, the fourth nail was lodged in the coffin of the Hejaz. The pretensions of Hussein had been too much for the Wahhabis, whose claim to the insignificant oasis of Khurma was haughtily rejected. There ensued a battle in which the Hejazi forces were annihilated. Following this, there was an opportunity for Hussein to review the situation, and to change his attitude. Instead of which his arrogance grew even greater, so much so, that when the history of this time came to be written, historians would be amazed at the moderation of Ibn Saoud. And the last nail pierced the Hejaz when, last year, Hus-

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sein was in the valley of the Jordan proclaimed Caliph. Islam had never been happy about the Arab revolt against the lawful Caliph, and was not likely to acquiesce mildly in Hussein's assumption of the supreme title. The Wahhabis swept over the southern Hejaz, and Hussein was forced to abdicate. Ibn Saoud overran Taif and Mecca, and occupied the ports of Kunfida, Lith, Rabegh, and Wejh: and the Emir Ali was now tucked up in Jeddah, and could boast only of Medina and the northern districts.

The failure of the Shereefian experiment Mr. Philby ascribed partly to the upbringing of Hussein. His mixture of bedouin experience in the desert and of Turkish environment at Constantinople had resulted in unfusable prejudices. His régime had been marked, on the one hand, by a corrupt bureaucracy (he thought all officials dishonest, so would not pay them), by a system of primitive education—mainly theological in character, and by the absence of an Army, owing to his refusal to pay anybody; and, on the other hand, by the installation of such modern methods as telephone and wireless communication, by the presence of a Navy, and by the ambition for an Air Force. His attempt to create a modern State upon antedeluvian foundations was naturally disastrous. For in the Hejaz ordeal by fire and domestic slavery still existed as normal institutions. The ordeal by fire, an interesting practice known to the Arabs as "the licking," was considerably indulged in at Tebuk and at El Arish: a white hot poker was applied to the tongue, and if no trace of burning were left, the sufferer had told the truth. The Hejaz got its slaves mostly from Africa, as it had done for centuries. Also, the pilgrimage was a good source of supply for slaves: destitute parents would sell their children in order to get money to return to their homes. The price of a slave in Arabia varied from about £30 to £80, the highest price being given for negroes from the Sudan, the lowest for Abyssinians.

Passing to the history of the Hejaz, the lecturer said our knowledge of it was chiefly derived from Burckhardt, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, from Burton (in the 'fifties on the pilgrimage, in the 'seventies on Midian), from Doughty (who was discovering Nabatæan cities at precisely the time when Burton was talking of the inadvisability or impossibility of discovering them), from Keane (an officer who discovered at Mecca a mysterious Englishwoman), from Charles Huber (who was murdered at Rabegh), from Wavell, and, finally, from Lawrence. Among these Burckhardt, Burton, Doughty, with Lawrence, when his book was published, to join them, stood out by themselves. It was ironical that Burton, who so strongly criticised the lack of enthusiasm which allowed Burckhardt's tomb in Cairo to fall into ruins, should himself later be in danger of the same humiliation. Burton's own tomb at Mortlake had been shamefully neglected. The matter might well be taken up by the British Government, who could recall the fact that when Huber was murdered, the French Government erected, and had since maintained, a monument over his grave at Jeddah. For Burton was one of those men through whose work the Empire had become what it was.

Subsequently to the lecture, Dr. D. G. Hogarth said that he could agree only with the first of the five nails which Mr. Philby had hammered into the coffin of the Hejaz—the Hejaz Railway (started in 1899 by Abdul Hamid as a strategic measure, subsidised by Moslems for religious reasons, and finished in 1904) did menace the independence of the Hejaz, and in some measure did destroy the atmosphere of "other worldliness" of the Haj. For the rest, this was not the first time in history when the Hejaz had been overrun, and nothing would surprise him less than to find, in five years' time or so, a member of the Shereefian family again ruling at Mecca. Regarding Burton's pilgrimage, his view was that it was not a supplement of, but quite distinct from, his endeavour to cross the great southern desert of Arabia—compared with which journey it was, of course, comparatively safe. Dr. Hogarth further suggested that the pilgrimage had, since the establishment of the Hejaz railway, declined in numbers, but it was for future Arabian travellers to confirm this with statistics.

Mr. Penzer revealed the little known fact that there was in existence a copy of Doughty's work upon Arabia with Burton's own comments written in it. Thus we know what Burton thought of Doughty, although, because, owing to his disapproval of Burton's journey to Mecca, Doughty had never read Burton, we did not know what the living thought of the dead master. Mr. Penzer added that a proposal had been laid down to unite the two parts of Burton's voluminous books which at present lie in libraries in Camberwell and in Kensington.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK.

"The Statesman's Year Book." Edited by Sir John Scott Keltie and M. Epstein. (London: Macmillan and Co. 25s. net.)

The chief difference between the 1925 and 1924 issues of this admirable compilation is that the later volume includes an authoritative account of Arabia, written by Mr. H. St. John Philby. This account of Arabia, well and clearly made, is of the utmost importance to the student of the Middle East whose duty it is to study the potentialities of the peninsula. It may be that in one or two small details the narrative is possibly not absolutely as detached as it might be, or that subsequent events have overtaken it. Was it not for Aqaba (and not Maan), for instance, that ex-King Hussein left Jeddah? And, of course, Dr. Naji el Assil no longer represents the Hejaz in London. In the main, however, the Editors may count themselves fortunate indeed to have secured so eminent a writer on Arabia.

It is a curious fact that in so many of the regions which THE NEAR EAST covers, changes should have been made since the writing of this Year-Book. It is no longer true, for example, that Mehmed Bey Konitza represents Albania in London; nor is Lt.-General T. E. Scott Political Resident and G.O.C. now in Aden; nor, of course, was there time in include the successors of General Allenby and Sir Herbert Samuel in Egypt and Palestine respectively. Zekiai Bey, again, no more represents Turkey in London. All these things, however, were quite unavoidable.

A measure of the gratitude which we feel towards the Editors is indicated by the fact that our chief quarrel is with the spelling of Oriental names. There is very careless proof-reading, for instance, in the names of the Secretaries of the Royal Egyptian Legation in London; and why should the Yugoslav Prime Minister be spelled with a "c" and the Bulgarian Minister in London with an "s"? On questions of fact, however, the accuracy of this "Year-Book" is astonishing. Its indispensability is, if one may so put it, an ever-growing thing.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Heart of the Middle East." By Richard Coke. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 18s. net.)

"The Re-Making of the Nations." By J. H. Nicholson, M.A. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"'Neath Burmese Bells." By Ella M. Scrymsour. (London: T. Fisher Unwin.)

LORD RONALDSHAY'S
INDIAN TRILOGY

THE HEART OF ARYAVARTA: A Study of the Psychology of Indian Unrest. 14/- net.
INDIA: A Bird's-Eye View. 18/- net.
LANDS OF THE THUNDERBOLT: Sikhim, Chumbi and Bhutan. 16/- net.

Times Literary Supplement: "Since Sir Alfred Lyall no great British administrator has produced such an illuminating series of studies of Indian psychology as Lord Ronaldshay, lately Governor of Bengal. In the present volume, which is the third of the series, he gets down to bedrock and finds the secret of what we call Indian unrest in the clash of two civilizations as far as the poles asunder."

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Indian Affairs.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

The strength which has been shown recently in Indian Exchange is being maintained and may be attributed to the continued demand for money in India caused by late activity in exports—chiefly cotton. There should, however, be signs, very shortly, of easier conditions, as the Imperial Bank of India rate has been reduced to 5 per cent. and their latest return, issued last week, states that the trade demand has diminished by over six crores of rupees—an abnormally large amount even for the end of the season.

Business has been done in the London market during the past week for immediate telegraphic remittances to India at 1/6 1-32 to 1/6 1-16, and the rate may be called quite steady at the higher quotation. Advocates of a sixteen-penny rupee may be interested to know that forward rates are no lower than 1/6 1-16, any delivery up to November, which is quoted 1/6 3-32. This firmness is rather surprising in view of the uncertainty regarding the monsoon, which, according to all accounts, has started none too auspiciously; but it is of course much too early yet to pass any opinion on this most important factor.

Calcutta has had a good jute season, and the advance in prices has not deterred buyers, who have pretty well cleared the market. The outlook must depend on the progress of the monsoon, and a temporary setback in exchange is not unlikely.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 4.

The Spinning Franchise.

Mr. Gandhi is steadily passing away from realities. After his discouraging experiences with non-co-operation and non-violence, he suddenly hit upon the idea of making the *charka*, or spinning wheel, the symbol and the test of national spirit and political sincerity. The man who did his own spinning would have time for contemplation, as the revolving wheel turned his thoughts to the wheel of life; but at the same time he would be attacking the foreigner at a vital point, his trade. An hour's spinning a day by every adult Indian, weaving in the village, and *khaddar* universally worn, and Lancashire and Japan would equally be deprived of their best market. Hence the spinning franchise. *Every member of the Congress party must spin an hour a day or cease to be a member.* The test was too severe, and it ceased to have any reality when Congress allowed any member who found it impossible to spin himself to employ another to spin for him. Strenuous efforts were made to prevent open discord, but when Gandhi called a Congress Committee last week in Calcutta, only two persons obeyed the call and he failed to get a quorum, and a statement was issued to the Press to this effect. It is the end of the spinning franchise, but Gandhi goes on undismayed. His latest advice is addressed to Anglo-Indians (new and old style), and it is to spin and go on spinning, for only in spinning can salvation be found. He was near a reality here, for the turning of spindles is vital to Calcutta prosperity; but he was not thinking of jute.

Liberal Opinion.

Sir Surendranath Banerjea is already using his pen to a purpose in *The Bengalee*. In commenting on the recent public statements of Lord Birkenhead, he says:—

"It must be borne in mind that, in six out of the eight provinces, the Reforms are at work and are producing fairly satisfactory results. Is it open to any one, in view of this fact, to say that they have failed all over India? That they have failed in Bengal is owing to circumstances of which the less said the better. Bribery, corruption, and intimidation are the weapons, offensive and defensive, which have been employed, and they have left a disastrous effect not only upon the new institutions of self-government, but upon the public life of the province. But, whether they have failed or not, there is the decision of the Secretary of State which will probably be endorsed by the Cabinet, namely, that the existing constitution must be worked in a spirit of sincerity and co-operation. If we decline to accept this invitation, let us try to find out what is open to us. Nothing else than obstruction, leading stage by stage to civil disobedience, to the non-payment of rents to landowners and taxes to the Government, and to the borderland which is the high road to revolution. . . . Let us not take a big jump into the unknown. We are sure the people of Bengal will not do it. They are too wary, too cautious, and too full of commonsense to be led by bluff and boast. They will follow the ancient and steady path of constitutional movement which will lead them to the goal."

Perhaps one comment may be added; protests against Tammany Hall methods, coupled with pointed references to the opportunities offered by absolute power in the Corporation with its vast expenditure, are becoming more open every week. The idol is losing its power to terrorise its dupes.

Piece-goods.

Wailing continues from all sides of the market. An effort is being made in Bombay this week by a number of business men to blame the financial policy of the Government of India for the serious depression from which the cotton industry of the Province is suffering. The fundamental causes of the depression are, however, too well known, viz., over-production leading to an accumulation of stocks, and Japanese competition. A good monsoon this year would appreciably relieve the situation; but, although this would increase purchasing power, it would leave untouched a fact which will have to be faced sooner or later the high prices now demanded for all classes of goods. The Japanese costs of production are so far below those of Lancashire that there is a very wide margin in which they can operate at a profit and still undersell all competitors. The menace of industrialised Asia should be faced now, for it is already more than a threat; the political influence of Bombay, which was thrown into the scale in favour of Tata steel, may at any time be used again to help the Bombay mills. The British Labour Party has good reason to think twice before urging an extension of the Reforms; protection for the Indian mills would mean starvation in Lancashire.

The Anglo-Indians.

There is much talk in the Press of the deputation of the Anglo-Indian Community to England, the purpose of which is not very clear to people outside the inner circles concerned. The situation of the community in India is one that must cause increasing disquiet in the minds of all thinking men. A report has recently been issued by the Committee concerned stating that there are 1,500 unemployed people living in absolute poverty in the city, and the situation is becoming increasingly serious. It is no longer a question of the less well-equipped or idle; the increase in the rate of Indianisation bears more hardly on the Anglo-Indian than on any other section, and the difficulty in finding employment increases daily. Housing conditions are deplorable and, amongst the poorer classes, indescribable: and, although an exhaustive inquiry took place a few years ago and remedies were indicated, nothing whatever has been done. Here is food for thought and an ample field of work for any social reformer who may happen to be a clear thinker.

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The Viceroy.

A singularly illuminating editorial has appeared in *Forward*, the extremist daily, in regard to Lord Reading's visit to England. It says that credit was due to the Viceroy that by his tact, single-heartedness, and devotion, Lord Reading had succeeded in curbing the dynamic forces of Indian trouble, and reducing them almost to a static inaction. "It was not Lord Birkenhead's purpose to note that the success of his friend, whatever it is, was over the bodies of 30,000 Indians thrown behind the bars of H.M. prisons." But all the same Lord Reading had served him and served the British people who seemed to have been anxious about the relations between India and Britain and were about to lose a dominion. The statecraft of Lord Reading had brought under power the forces that were responsible for Britain's anxiety. A just, if ingenuous, tribute to a very considerable achievement.

SIMLA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, June 3.

Communal Differences.

While some of the leading politicians are still endeavouring, though without any great success, to bring about some degree of unity among the various political parties in this country, there has been a remarkable absence of late of any serious effort on the part of those Indians whose words carry weight to smooth over the communal prejudices which have recently led only too frequently to rioting between Hindu and Moslem. Each community has started a movement for its internal organisation—the Hindu movement is named "Sangathan" and the Moslem movement "Tanzim"—the chief declared object of each being to make its members more valuable citizens of India. If they really served to fulfil such a purpose, no one could cavil at them; but the national aim is completely subordinated to the communal, each community preaches the necessity of its own organisation as a protection against the menace of the other, and the Tanzim organisation has become as great a bogey to the Hindus as the Sangathan is to the Moslems. Each in its turn adds to the general feeling of distrust and hostility felt by the one community for the other, and those to whom their co-religionists look up are unfortunately only too apt to encourage this enmity in their speeches and in their writings in the Press. Feeling between the two parties is at present running very high in many parts of India and, although the past month has been free from any actual outbreak, it was only a few days ago necessary to call out British troops in Amritsar to patrol the streets and by their presence ease a situation which was strained to the utmost. It is an established fact that on these occasions Moslems and Hindus alike look anxiously for the arrival of British soldiers, in whose impartiality they have implicit confidence, and it may safely be said that, in the present state of communal feeling, few of them would support any suggestion on the part of their leaders for the removal of the British garrison from India.

The Singapore Base.

The questions recently asked in the House of Commons on the subject of India's interest in the Singapore base have roused little or no comment in this country. Nor is this surprising; for it is a regrettable fact that few Indians have any concrete ideas on defence matters, and the general tendency, even on the part of those who have studied the subject, is to maintain that India can best be defended on Indian soil. It was the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee, I think, which, in its report issued early this year, made a gallant attempt to enlighten educated public opinion in the matter by reiterating the military truism that the real defence of this country lies beyond its borders and by asserting that, for this reason, unless the Indian Territorial Force were made liable for service beyond the frontiers of India, it was not fair to make it a charge upon the military budget. This pronouncement has had little or no effect in face of preconceived notions, and Singapore is still looked upon generally as an Imperial concern of no direct interest to India.

Air Force Operations.

The extraordinary effect of the Royal Air Force operations in Waziristan during March against a recalcitrant section of Mahsuds has for the first time drawn the attention of the public to the value of this arm as a factor in maintaining the peace of the Frontier. By a series of bombing raids, carried out continuously by day and for part of the night as well, three squadrons of aeroplanes succeeded in bringing to a state of submission a number of tribal sections which a strong force of ground troops would have been required to deal with effectively. The losses sustained by the Air Force were almost negligibly small when one takes into consideration the far-reaching effect of their operations and the fact that a purely military expedition would certainly have suffered considerable casualties in effecting the same results in the difficult country which makes up this part of the North-West Frontier. Moreover, operations from the air, contrary to a widely-held opinion, prove as a rule a most humane method of dealing with the tribes; for they result in but little loss of human life, relying for their success mainly on moral effect and the destruction of property. The area against which the recent air attacks were made is, however, a small one, and for them was utilised a very considerable proportion of the whole Air Force available in India. Now that this arm has shown of what it is capable, it can only be supposed that there will be a movement in favour of increasing the number of squadrons maintained in India, which are indeed ridiculously few considering the size of the country and the extent of its frontiers. Any attempt of this nature is, however, sure to be met with a demand for corresponding reductions in the Army, and this is a position full of danger. The Air Force is not as yet a weapon sufficiently capable of defending India without very material support from the ground, while the Army in India, as the late Lord Rawlinson publicly pointed out more than once, has already been reduced to the lowest minimum compatible with reasonable security.

THE LATE LORD MACDONNELL.

Though I was a young man when Lord MacDonnell left India, and naturally came but little in contact with him, it may not be out of place to offer a personal tribute to one who remains in my memory as the ablest of all the many able men whom I met during nearly 36 years' service in the East. Sir Antony MacDonnell impressed me as not only amazingly clever, but astonishingly hard-working—a combination that one meets but seldom, at any rate in India, where the brilliant men seem to prefer to work by fits and starts, and the diligent men to be denied the gift of brilliance. If he fell short of being a great man, it was perhaps because he lacked the supreme gift of picking his subordinates: he conveyed the impression that, conscious of his own intellectual superiority over the rank and file, he was apt to place the latter all in the same class and to think that it didn't much matter which of them he chose to do a particular job. I was in Naini Tal during the summer of 1901, and fate ordained that there should be an amateur dramatic performance at Government House and that I should be called upon to be its stage manager: a post that entailed my frequent presence at the Government House lunch table and consequent opportunities of meeting Sir Antony on something distantly approximating to equal terms; for, greatly as I stood in awe of the Lieutenant-Governor, I think he found it almost as difficult to talk to a young man who took an interest in private theatricals. But talk he did, and in the most friendly and—if I may use the word, without implying any suggestion of condescension—tolerant way; though he would often relapse into thought, from which he sometimes emerged surprisingly: I remember that, once, after a period of silence, he suddenly startled the table by exploding—apropos of nothing of which we others were aware—with "That man! That man!!" in a tone that

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made me glad to feel sure that the subject could not be myself. He had the reputation of being unsympathetic and exacting to his subordinates; but there was plenty of good human nature in Sir Antony, as the following anecdote may be adduced to show. Shortly after becoming Lieutenant-Governor, he attended an official prize-giving at an Indian school: and the Commissioner, a nervous man with a great capacity for saying the wrong thing, made a speech of welcome, in the course of which he dwelt on the debt that the school owed to the interest taken in it by the late Lieutenant-Governor, and the hopes that they now placed on the present one, "in accordance with the well-known saying that a live dog is better than a dead—er—er—I mean, a live lion"—At this point Sir Antony intervened: gently observing "I think your first version was the correct one, Mr. F."

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Calcutta Corporation.

The Calcutta Corporation, says *The Statesman*, is the working model of Swarajist administration; and what it is, on a small scale, is what may be expected on a large scale should the Swaraj party come to power in Bengal or in India. A community such as that of Calcutta can only be satisfied with the best service obtainable for the price that it can afford; but this is not being obtained, and yet the Corporation's finances have been brought to a condition in which it is scarcely possible to raise more money at a reasonable rate of interest; so much so, that the Government of Bengal have had to issue a warning on the subject. In the present year the Corporation proposes to spend 228 lakhs, with a revenue of 214: and a deficit is only defensible if full value is being obtained for every penny spent. Every Swarajist candidate for the Corporation has to sign a document binding him to abide by the decision of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee in all matters appertaining to the appointment of the officers of the Corporation, or wherein "there may arise acute difference of opinion within the party." The present state of municipal affairs in Calcutta calls for the most direct responsibility between the ratepayers and the Councillors; whereas, says *The Statesman*, "a large proportion of the latter have placed their consciences and their votes in the keeping of an outside body that has neither to pay nor to render an account of its stewardship. In the end that may be disastrous for the Swaraj party, but at a far earlier date it will be destructive of the wellbeing of Calcutta."

Piece-goods Slump.

Calcutta reports a big slump in imported piecegoods, a number of Indian traders having closed their doors, while the others are contemplating complete cessation of the import of piece-goods. The traders say that stocks on hand exceed two crores of rupees in value (nearly 1½ million pounds at the existing rate of exchange) and that sales have been less than half the usual amount, in spite of the fact that prices are thirty per cent. lower than last year. Even so, it is the existing high prices that have caused the present difficulty, as they are still too high for Indian customers: and the Indian traders say that, unless Lancashire exporters can still further reduce their prices—which the latter declare to be impossible—matters are likely to go from bad to worse.

Bombay Industrial Crisis.

The Committee of the Bombay Millowners Association have addressed the Government of India on the acute depression in the cotton spinning and weaving industry of India. One of the points brought forward by the Association is that the maintenance of the exchange at 1s. 6d. gives a 12½ per cent bounty to Lancashire, while the depreciation of the Japanese yen gives Japan a further bounty of 12½ per cent. against both Lancashire and India, and has enabled her to flood India with her manufactures, to the great detriment of the Home industry. They ask for a reduction of the rupee value to the pre-War rate of 1s. 4d., and for protection against Japanese competition. The *Times of India* publishes the opinions of prominent bankers in Bombay, who declared that a lowering of the exchange would be no remedy, even if it were possible to bring it about: India had had four successive good monsoons and the balance of trade was in her favour, so that it was only natural that exchange should remain high: and what was wanted was a stable exchange, at whatever point it reached in the ordinary course. As for Japanese competition, though admitting its seriousness, they felt that the remedy must lie in the proper organisation of the Indian textile industry, which ought then to be able to compete successfully with a country that has to import the raw material from India and pay freight and insurance charges both ways before her manufactures can be put on the Indian market. Commenting on the situation, the *Times of India* says that, if it can be shown that Japanese competition is unfair and is seriously damaging India's mill industry, India has a right to press the Government of India to take steps that should equalise the conditions of the contest. It doubts the accuracy of the argument that the depreciation of Japan's currency is responsible for Japanese competition with Indian mills, and thinks it more likely to be due to Japanese Government subsidies, a Japanese combine to sell below cost in the hope of finally reducing the Indian mills to impotence, or the fact that the Japanese have the great advantage that they do as they please with labour, in permitting workers to work eleven hours a day and in double shifts. The first two of these three reasons for Japan's power to undersell Indian cotton manufactures, though often asserted, are not proved; but the third is proved: and, until Japan comes into line with the other countries of the world and reduces the legal hours of labour within the measure adopted in nearly all industrial countries, every country that feels the pinch of Japanese competition has the right to press upon its Government the need for protective measures. The paper thinks that it is on these lines that agitation ought to proceed before it proceeds along the dubious and controversial paths of currency reform.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Obituary.

Mr. Thomas Stoker, C.S.I., died on June 14, aged 75. Though he never rose to the highest posts in the Indian Civil Service, Mr. Stoker was an able and distinguished official, whose death will be mourned by a large circle of friends. He made a name as a very successful settlement officer, and became Chief Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces. He was a keen student of currency questions and had written a good deal on the subject.

The late Mr. C. R. Das.

By the sudden death of Mr. C. R. Das, which occurred on June 16, the Indian "Swaraj" party loses its originator and leader—in the words of the Calcutta correspondent of *The Times* "the most dynamic leader the Nationalists are likely to have." Before his decision to "non-co-operate," Mr. Das was Bengal's most successful lawyer: he made a great deal of money at the bar and could have amassed a large fortune had it not been that he was one of the most generous of men—his purse was always at the service, not only of his friends, but of anyone who came to him with a tale of misfortune. When he became a non-co-operator, he threw up his practice at the Bar, retaining—for some time, though he ultimately also relinquished that—only one of his many briefs, in connection with an important Indian succession case known as the Dumraon Raj case, his monthly retainer in which was said to be no less than fifty thousand rupees. He had been briefed to lead in the Calcutta Munitions case, which caused such a sensation in India four years ago, and one of the developments of which led to the resignation of a Member of the Governor-General's Council: the Government of India gave him the choice of retaining or relinquishing the brief and, after some hesitation, he chose the latter course. These great sacrifices made in the cause of non-co-operation won him wide respect even from those who profoundly differed from him in politics. After his re-

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jection of complete non-co-operation and the decision in favour of the entry of the "Swaraj Party" into the Councils, it was often stated that Mr. Das intended to resume his practice at the bar, but he never did so. Mr Das' success in achieving a deadlock in the Bengal Council led to the dramatic offer, by the Governor, of the transferred subjects to himself and his party, which Mr. Das refused. If, as was widely believed at the time, this offer was a "gamble on refusal," it certainly achieved its object; though Mr. Das' recent "olive branch" seems to prove that he came, in time, to regret his refusal and would have welcomed a renewal of the offer. At one time, Mr. Das showed leanings towards Communism, and made several public speeches in which he upheld the idea of "Swaraj for the masses": speeches which led the Moscow Communist International to take a lively interest in his proceedings and to attempt, by private and public correspondence, to guide him along their own path. Their failure to do so was shown by a later series of speeches in which Mr. Das upheld the right to amass private wealth and to hold private property. Mr. Das also coquetted with the Bengal revolutionary party, towards which his general attitude was much the same as his particular attitude towards the murderer of Mr. Day—that he condemned the deed but reverenced the nobility of the doer. The fact seems to have been that he looked upon the revolutionary spirit as a useful political asset and tried to keep it alive but, at the same time, to prevent it from active manifestation: and in this, as in his attempt to obtain Mohammedan support and in his conduct of municipal affairs in his capacity as Mayor of Calcutta, he was not too successful. On the whole, Mr. Das cannot be ranked very high as a practical leader of Indian political Nationalism; certainly not nearly so high as the late B. G. Tilak, who was, perhaps, the nearest approach to a great man, in that respect, that the present generation has produced in India. But Mr. Das was an honest enemy and a staunch friend: and, even to those who differed from him most, an interesting and likeable personality.

It was Mr. Das' boast that his tactics had "smashed Dyarchy" in Bengal: and the official confirmation of this boast was issued only three days before Mr. Das' death: when a Government of India resolution announced that "the transfer of all transferred subjects in Bengal will be suspended until January 21, 1927, when the life of the (present) Bengal Legislative Council terminates." The resolution included a review of the events that led up to the decision embodied in it, and pointed out that the Council had received full warning of what must necessarily follow on their repeated refusal to vote the Ministers' salaries; but also included a suggestion that "the suspension may be terminated at an earlier date if the Council indicates a desire to secure the reconsideration of the position." This suggestion, obviously addressed to Mr. Das himself, has come too late for acceptance or rejection by him, and its consideration will fall to smaller, and much less able, men.

Bombay Dinner.

The annual Bombay dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil on June 12. One ex-Governor of Bombay—Sir George Lloyd—presided and proposed the toast of the evening; and the company included another—Lord Harris. Lord Winterton replied for the guests.

Indian Import Trade.

The Board of Trade Journal prints details of India's import trade in the twelve months ending March 31, 1925. The total value of imports into India from the United Kingdom rose from 131 to 133 crores (nearly £100,000,000 at the present rate of exchange) though this amount represents only 54 per cent. of India's total imports, as compared with 58 per cent. in the previous twelve months. Great Britain's principal foreign competitors show increases. Japan now ranks second in India's import trade, with 6.9 per cent., followed by Germany, 6.3 per cent., and the United States, 5.7 per cent.

There were large increases in the total imports of textiles, the value of which rose from 67½ to 82½ crores. Of these, the increase was almost entirely due to British goods in the case of bleached and unbleached piece-goods, and largely due to them in the case of coloured and woollen piece-goods, though in the former Japan and Italy, and in the latter Italy, France, Japan, and Germany all made large advances. Nearly 92 per cent. of the total imports of sewing cotton were shipped by British manufacturers; but in cotton yarn practically the entire increase twelve million pounds in weight and over one and a half crores in value, was due to increased shipments by Japan, who now not only largely controls the market for 40's, but is underselling Lancashire, particularly in the Madras market, in 60's. The report mentions that the advance in the woollen piece-goods trade during the last three years has been phenomenal, and that, during the period under review, the total imports increased in quantity by 60 per cent. and in value by 45 per cent. Of this increase Great Britain was responsible for nearly half the quantity and for more than half the value; but the increasing competition of Continental countries is shown by the fact that the value of the Italian imports of woollen piece-goods was nearly thrice that of the previous year, while that of the French and Japanese imports of the same commodity showed, in both instances, a rise of over 70 per cent.

The prolonged depression in the engineering industries is evidenced by a further decline in the total imports of machinery and mill work, the value of which fell from 19 to 14¾ crores, almost entirely at the expense of British shippers; though the British share of the total imports still amounts to 84 per cent. In electrical machinery, the value of the total imports fell by twenty lakhs, in spite of which the British share rose by 12 lakhs, the share of the United States actually falling from 41 to 15 lakhs. This satisfactory result is said to be due to the close attention paid to the Indian market and the excellent service given by manufacturers' branch offices.

There was a slight rise in the value of the total imports of iron and steel, from 16 to 16.6 crores. Most of the items either remained constant or showed a decline, the only really notable increases being in galvanised sheets and plates (from 517 to 603 lakhs), of which enormous total, amounting to nearly 4½ million pounds, the British share amounted to no less than 98 per cent.: and in wrought tubes, pipes and fittings (from 84 to 114 lakhs) though in this case the British share fell from 60 to 58 lakhs, while Germany, Belgium, and Holland (the latter presumably transhipments from Germany) accounted for the whole of the increase.

The total imports of hardware rose in value from 442 to 499 lakhs, but here again the British share fell, from 207 to 200 lakhs, Germany being responsible for 72 per cent. of the increase. The report remarks: "The strides made by Germany in re-establishing her pre-War position in the bazaars are most extraordinary."

Electrical instruments and apparatus fell from 226 to 197 lakhs in value, Great Britain bearing the whole of the decrease. Motor vehicles increased in value from 229 to 268 lakhs: British cars accounted for 16 lakhs of this increase, and American lorries for 6 lakhs. There has been a remarkable increase in the imports of "push" bicycles, the value of which was 20 lakhs up last year, and is 20 lakhs more up this year. Practically the whole of the latter increase was due to Great Britain.

Paper and pasteboard, provisions and liquors all show an advance, but the British share was either stationary or in defect except in the case of provisions where, out of a total increase of 112 lakhs, the British share was 24 lakhs. By far the greatest rise pro rata was that of Holland, whose imports rose from 27 to 52 lakhs.

Dye-stuffs advanced slightly, but the British share fell from 27 to 8 lakhs. The German share rose from 181 to 191 lakhs, and imports from Holland (23 lakhs) and Belgium (16 lakhs) are also recorded—presumably German dyes shipped from Dutch and Belgian ports. Coal fell from 166 to 120 lakhs, the principal decreases being due to reduction in shipments from South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, and Australia: while imports from the United Kingdom rose from 28 to 35 lakhs, representing an increase in quantity of from 79,000 to 108,000 tons.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

June 25, 1925 (New Style).
June 12, 1925 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 3, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tammuz 3, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Emily Lutyens will return to 13, Mansfield Street about the middle of July, from India.

Colonel Condiescu, Aide-de-Camp to the Crown Prince of Roumania, left London on June 15 for Bucharest.

Major Enescu, the Director of the Roumanian Aeronautical School, left London on June 15 for Bucharest.

The Maharaja of Porbandar arrived in London last Saturday from India. He has taken a house at Richmond.

Ghulam Ghaus Khan, First Secretary at the Afghan Legation, left London last week for the Continent on leave.

M. N. Voulovitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, left London on June 17 for Belgrade, and will be absent one month.

The Turkish Ambassador arrived in London last Thursday from Angora, and has taken up his residence at the Embassy in Portland Place.

Dr. J. Juritch, the newly-appointed Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes to the Court of St. James, will arrive in London on July 8.

The Secretary of State for India and the Countess of Birkenhead will hold a reception to meet the Earl and Countess of Reading at the India Office on July 3 at half-past nine o'clock.

H. E. M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister in London, who has been absent in Greece and Belgrade for some time, returned last week to the Legation at 51, Upper Brook Street.

Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Ceylon, arrived in London this week. A dinner is being given in his honour by the Ceylon Association at the Hyde Park Hotel to-morrow (Friday).

The Grand Duchess Xenia, Princess Ileana of Roumania, and the Lord Frederick Cambridge visited the King and Queen at Windsor Castle last Saturday and remained to Luncheon.

By permission of the King, the marriage of Major E. D. Metcalfe, M.V.O., M.C., Skinner's Horse, Indian Cavalry, with Lady Alexandra Curzon, will take place on July 21, in the Chapel Royal, St. James's.

Mr. Peter Augustus Jay, the newly-appointed United States Ambassador to the Argentine, arrived in London last Thursday from Bucharest, where he was formerly Minister. He is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, who arrived in England recently, gave a garden party last Saturday at Russells, his residence at Watford, to which the Mayor, aldermen, and councillors of Watford were invited.

The annual dinner of the Central Asian Society will take place at the King Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, June 30. Lord Peel, chairman of the Society, will preside, and the guests will be Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Amery.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place early in August, between Mr. Craven H. Walker, O.B.E., Sudan Civil Service, H.M. Consul for W. Ethiopia, and Gwladys Muriel, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coltman Rogers, Stanage Park, Radnorshire, and Hagnaby Priory, Lincolnshire.

The will of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Augustus Muspratt-Williams, C.I.E. (63), late Indian Army, for 22 years Chief Inspector of Explosives, of Trinity Mansions Hotel, Eastbourne (net personalty, £21,122), has been proved at £21,197.

Viscount and Viscountess Inchcape entertained at dinner on June 16, at 4, Seamore Place, the Earl and Countess of Reading, the Earl and Countess of Birkenhead, the Earl and Countess of Oxford, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe and Countess Jellicoe, Viscountess Sandhurst, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, Lord and Lady Carson, Lord Stanmore, Lord and Lady Emmott, Sir Robert Horne, Sir John and Lady Simon, Sir Campbell Stuart, Mrs. Stuart, the Hon. Kenneth Mackay, and the Hon. Elsie Mackay.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Colonel Commandant C. R. Bradshaw, C.B.E., has been selected for the command of the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade at Dehra Dun.

Captain J. D. Tucker, who is Chief Instructor at the Army Signal School in Poona, is vacating his appointment in August.

Captain A. C. Brooks, R.E., has been selected for a Staff appointment in the Adjutant-General's Branch in India.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. S. Fennell has been selected to command the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Madras Pioneers. Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Peel, C.B.E., D.S.O., has been posted to command the 1st Battalion 1st Madras Pioneers. These officers were respectively in the Leicestershire Regiment and Somerset Light Infantry before transferring to the Indian Army.

The Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded by the Council, with the approval of the President, the Duke of Connaught, to Lieut.-Colonel Sir David Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.B., LL.D., F.R.S., formerly Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Calcutta, "for the application of botany to the development of the raw materials of the Empire."

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925.

A PALESTINE STEWARDSHIP.

Apart from the few curiously-minded people who claim to be convinced that the Arabs were better off under Turkish rule before the War than they are now under the British Mandate, those who still challenge British policy in Palestine are obliged to base their case on the incompatability of the Balfour Declaration with the promises previously given to the Arabs and the consequent injustice of the continuation of the present system, which endorses the terms of the Declaration. The barrenness of all such discussion is shown by the fact that the critics—a small coterie—have no solution to offer beyond the immediate withdrawal of the Balfour Declaration. In other words, they would right what they regard as a wrong by committing another wrong; they would atone for what they claim to be a breach of faith to the Arabs by perpetrating a very deliberate breach of faith against the Jews—and that without stopping to consider whether, even if the clash of promises be admitted, any real injustice has been done to the Arabs, or whether the latter are not, in fact, the gainers from things as they are. It would be idle to pretend that British pronouncements in regard to the Middle East have not suffered from a vagueness which has called for subsequent explanation, but it is difficult to discover any feasible policy, for dealing with the actual situation, other than the one which successive British Governments have now been following, and that is, to make the best of things as they are, to see that Arab fears, which have prompted the agitation not against the British Mandate but against the Jews, are belied, and that the Arabs are brought to realise that the application of the Balfour Declaration in British hands entails for them advantages which otherwise they could never have had. In other words, the only possible policy for the British Government to adopt is to work for the day when present bitternesses will have passed, when, the effect of Jewish immigration being seen in its true perspective, Arab and Jew will jointly be responsible for the government of the land, subject no longer to racial divisions, but, as Palestinians, only to those healthy political differences which make for the sound development of the country.

On all matters on which public feeling has run high those who would arrive at an unprejudiced verdict have to decide between the critics who are tempted to make the worst of things and official statements which so often appear prompted by an anxiety to make out the best possible case. Of the two pictures thus offered each must be judged on its intrinsic merits; a necessarily hurried impression may carry conviction, if it is adequately supported by evidence, and a carefully reasoned report need not be rejected, merely because it is official. With whatever reservations the reader takes up the latest White Paper on Palestine, embodying the High Commissioner's Report on the Administration of Palestine, 1920-1925, he will be compelled to admit that Sir Herbert Samuel has rendered a striking, courageous and profoundly interesting account of his five years' stewardship. It will not satisfy those who have declared war *à outrance* on the Balfour Declaration; for the High Commissioner boldly analyses the political situation, taking his stand on the Declaration, describing the progress made in the work of establishing a Jewish National Home, and subjecting the attitude of the Arabs to a close scrutiny in the light of all that has happened since the Declaration was issued in 1917. This part of the Report forms a valuable contribution to the controversy that has raged round Palestine, and deserves to be closely studied. From it we learn that it was Sir Herbert Samuel who, after two years of experience of conditions in Palestine, urged upon the British Government the necessity of a formal and authoritative statement of policy which should clear away the ambiguity attaching to the meaning of the Balfour Declaration. This statement was published in June 1922; it made clear that the purpose of the Declaration was not to create a wholly Jewish Palestine nor that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a Home should be founded in Palestine. Sir Herbert Samuel claims that, in spite of the opposition of the Arab Executive, the ultimate effect of the definition of policy upon Arab opinion in Palestine was very considerable. He gives a graphic account of the fears that had quite genuinely been aroused among the Arab population; but as time passed, they found that the threatened disasters that were to follow the Declaration did not in fact occur, they came to understand the spirit that animates a British Administration, they saw that it was as active in promoting the welfare of the Arabs as if there had been no Zionist complication and no refusal to co-operate, and gradually Arab opinion has undergone a satisfactory change. The participation of the Arabs in the Government of the country, however, has not yet been secured, and Sir Herbert Samuel is not prepared to state whether their attitude will change. A large proportion take no interest in public affairs. Of the rest, some are inclined to co-operate in the belief that the Jewish movement is more to their advantage than to their disadvantage; others are still apprehensive, but consider that Arab interests can be better safeguarded by participation in the Government than by remaining outside; a third section, convinced that under the existing policy the Arab will find himself subordinated or even forced out of the country, will have nothing to do with the Government nor will they allow anyone else to take part, if they can prevent it. The first party is clearly in a minority; the second seems to be increasing in numbers at the expense of the third, but as to which includes the greater number or carries the more weight the High Commissioner will not hazard a conjecture.

If once it be admitted that Great Britain can dissociate herself neither from her responsibility to a Jewish National Home in Palestine, nor from her obligation to promote the well-being of the Arabs as fully and as wholeheartedly as if there had been no Zionist complications, it is obvious that British interests require that everything possible should be done to promote the prosperity of Palestine without respect of persons. The country is still too near the days of conflict to think of the inhabitants as Palestinians only, and inevitably the six million pounds sterling that approximately have been introduced into the land during the last few years by Jewish agency have benefited the Jews in the first place. But the good that that amount of capital performs permeates sooner or later throughout the land. Palestine, which before the British occupation had practically no industries, can now claim nearly one hundred and fifty industrial enterprises with a total investment of £E.1,200,000. The new customs arrangements with Syria provide these undertakings with a market of nearly three millions of people, and already other than Jewish business men are beginning to pay attention to the potentialities of the country. The eagerness with which the Arab population is taking advantage of the educational facilities offered it suggests that it will claim an increasing share in this material prosperity. Arab cultivators are profiting from the introduction of improved agricultural methods by Jewish colonists, and Arab capitalists will be no less alive to their own interests. As soon as the stern logic of facts has compelled the Arabs to look forward instead of backward, the influence of a small body of agitators will pass, and Palestine should be able gradually to prepare itself for self-government, unconscious of any clash of interests between Arab and Jew.

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SULEIMANIYEH.

(From a Correspondent.)

The news that Sheikh Mahmoud and his following have on two recent occasions attacked Iraqi troops near Suleimaniyeh in the Kurdish mountains brings again into prominence the difficulties which the British and Iraq Governments have been obliged to face while attempting to administer Southern Kurdistan.

Sheikh Mahmoud is not the chief of a tribe, but the head of a notorious and fanatical family of so-called religious leaders known as the Qara Dagh (Black Mountain) Dervishes, the members of which, for many generations, have possessed considerable influence for evil over the lawless brigands who inhabit the mountains surrounding the town of Suleimaniyeh. They proved themselves a constant irritant to the Turks during the latter's régime in Mesopotamia; and ultimately became so serious a menace that, some years ago, the Ottoman Government found it necessary to remove to Mosul their aged chief, Sheikh Sa'id, father of Sheikh Mahmoud, and there place a period upon his existence by causing him to be strangled in public in one of the main streets of the city. Under these cheerful auspices Sheikh Mahmoud assumed the leadership of his house.

When, towards the close of the War, the Turks evacuated Suleimaniyeh, the British Commander-in-Chief was unable to despatch troops there to maintain order. Sheikh Mahmoud was sent for; and, since it was supposed that he would be bitterly hostile to the Turks in view of their treatment of his father, he was entrusted with the temporary government of the district. It was not then realised that he, like all other Kurdish brigands, was implacably opposed to any form of stable government, be it Turkish or British.

The town of Suleimaniyeh, capital of the frontier province of the same name, is a centre of considerable size and importance, being situated at the converging point of several trade routes. It is also of some strategic consequence, since the hills in which it lies command the line of communication between Baghdad and the Turkish frontier of Iraq. The townsmen, despite the lawlessness of the surrounding country, are industrious and peaceable traders of mixed Persian and Kurdish origin, with some families of Uniat-Chaldæan Christians; and, although the town has been for many decades the bone of contention between Kurdish robber chiefs and the suzerain government, they have done their best to steer clear of political activities and intrigues. Of old they had known Sheikh Mahmoud for an unstable and illiterate fanatic, for a reactionary of the worst type, and for one who has no interests beyond his personal gain; and when they saw him arrive as their governor, they shook their heads and foresaw troublous times. For some months the town and district writhed under the tyranny of the Sheikh and his sycophants until, in the spring of 1919, it was rumoured that the British Government was about to assume direct control. But Sheikh Mahmoud had no intention of surrendering his profitable authority. He summoned his armed retainers and fellow-brigands from the mountains, arrested the members of a small British mission in Suleimaniyeh, and defied the Government to dislodge him.

To deal with the situation thus created, a column of considerable size was assembled at Kirkuk under Major-General Fraser. When, in due course, the force advanced on Suleimaniyeh, Sheikh Mahmoud and his supporters attempted to hold it up at the Bazian defile, where the road from Kirkuk enters the Kurdish mountains. Sharp fighting ensued, but the tribesmen soon decided that discretion was the better part of valour; and the Sheikh, wounded and deserted by his following, fell into our hands. He was tried subsequently by a military court, charged with inciting rebellion, and condemned to death; but this sentence was commuted to imprisonment in India, and he was permitted later to live under supervision at Koweit. In the meantime the British force had entered Suleimaniyeh to the joy of the long-suffering population; administration by a British Political Officer had been instituted; and the town embarked upon a period of remarkable prosperity and commercial activity.

In the summer of 1922, however, a band of Turkish irregulars crossed the Iraq border and, later, penetrated into the Rania district, north of Suleimaniyeh, whence the Government was unable to eject it. This gave much encouragement to Sheikh Mahmoud's small but noisy band of partisans, who began vehement agitation for his release and permission to return home, although the townsmen, as was their nature, hoped only that the disorder threatened by the proximity of Turkish troops would not interfere with their now lucrative trade and other lawful pursuits. But on September 1 a column of British troops met with a serious reverse near Rania at the hands of the Turks, and was obliged to withdraw to Keui Sanjaq and thence to Erbil; and Keui Sanjaq was subsequently occupied by the Turks. In the face of this enemy success the authorities in Baghdad, adopting the line of least resistance, resolved upon the immediate temporary evacuation of Suleimaniyeh by the Political Officer and his staff and, further, hoping that the necessary lesson had been learned, decided that the notorious Sheikh Mahmoud should be reinstated as Governor and supplied with a number of rifles to assist him in maintaining that position. Within twenty-four hours, in spite of the earnest protests of the loyal inhabitants, the entire British personnel was transported by aeroplanes from Suleimaniyeh to Kirkuk, while Sheikh Mahmoud, triumphant, was travelling post-haste from Koweit to Baghdad. Specious promises having been made to all and sundry in the Iraqi capital, the Sheikh hastened on his way, to be greeted at Suleimaniyeh with enthusiasm by his partisans but with sinking hearts by the stable and pro-British community.

The Turks showed no inclination to advance towards Suleimaniyeh and, for a time, Mahmoud was free to work out his salvation. But before many days had passed the cloven hoof again became evident. The régime which he instituted showed itself to be infinitely worse than that of his previous tenure, and the district became again the prey of his rapacity and misrule. The greater number of townsmen, although trade was now at a standstill through bad government, were perforce compelled to remain in Suleimaniyeh, but those of the law-abiding community who were able to raise the necessary funds withdrew to Kirkuk or Baghdad.

Within a few weeks Sheikh Mahmoud had thrown off the last semblance of allegiance to the British Government and was openly flirting with the pro-Turkish tribal chiefs to the north—if not with the Turkish authorities themselves—treating with contempt repeated requests to come in to Kirkuk and explain his conduct.

The authorities then decided upon one of those expedients which, considered unavoidable in an inadequately garrisoned country, have now become common events in Iraq and have, in the eyes of many, irretrievably lowered British prestige in the Middle East. The only alternative to the step taken was to ask for reinforcing troops from India. It was ordered that aeroplanes should fly over Suleimaniyeh and there drop messages saying that Sheikh Mahmoud's continued refusal to come in to Kirkuk would result in the town's being bombed within a short stated period; and, in preparation for carrying out this threat, the Royal Air Force detachment at Kirkuk was reinforced by all the aircraft available for the purpose.

Sheikh Mahmoud treated the ultimatum with scorn. But he took the precautions of despatching his minions to the houses of the leading pro-British citizens with orders to arrest those unfortunates and cast them into an improvised jail. The people of Suleimaniyeh were helpless. Not being armed, they were unable to resist or take action against the Sheikh, whose following the British Government had equipped with rifles and bayonets. Moreover, they were certain that Mahmoud's associates would be ever in their midst, while the British, for all they knew, might be even then preparing to withdraw to Basrah.

The bombing was carried out. Sheikh Mahmoud, his

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family, and retainers escaped unscathed. Some slight damage was done to property. One bomb caused some casualties to a few individuals of no political importance assembled in a tea shop, while another killed the wife of a reputable citizen who, staunchly pro-British but disgusted with Mahmoud's régime, had previously contrived to make his way to Baghdad to represent there the people of Suleimaniyeh's wish to be under direct British rule. When the raid was over, Sheikh Mahmoud saw that many unexploded bombs were lying in the streets. He had heard of the delay-action bombs which had been dropped on other towns in Kurdistan, and did not know whether those he now saw had been timed to explode within a few minutes or after many hours. He felt, however, that they were a serious menace to the wholeness of his skin; but his cunning rose to the occasion. The doors of the jail were opened, the pro-British notables were summoned forth and, under the escort of Mahmoud's armed men, were ordered to carry these dangerous objects to a place of safety at a distance from the town. The feelings of the prisoners can be imagined better than they can be described. The bombs were raised; and, fearing destruction with every step, a terror-stricken procession passed without the city. The fact that they might have been carrying contact-bombs, which had failed to explode when dropped, in no way lessened the consternation of the victims.

Suleimaniyeh and Sheikh Mahmoud then resumed their normal life.

The aerial action having failed to undermine Sheikh Mahmoud's position, it was agreed that he could be dislodged only by use of troops against him. These being by chance available in May (1923), a force of infantry, supported by pack artillery and aircraft, under Colonel-Commandant Vincent set out from Kirkuk. The commander acted with energy and determination; and, before the Sheikh had appreciated the situation, the column was at the outskirts of Suleimaniyeh. But it was again proved that aeroplanes cannot always take the place of cavalry; for under cover of darkness Mahmoud made good his escape to the hills in spite of the attempted vigilance of the aircraft. The townsmen again welcomed our troops and many offered assistance; but to capture Sheikh Mahmoud and his fellow-bandits in their mountain fastness was manifestly impossible for a small force; so, after some weeks of delay, withdrawal was ordered.

The situation of the loyal townspeople was now desperate; and for the chief supporters of the Government the only possible safety lay in instant flight to Kirkuk. Sheikh Mahmoud re-entered Suleimaniyeh as the rearguard of the column departed; and his following sniped our troops until the neighbourhood of Kirkuk was reached.

Since then the general condition of the Suleimaniyeh district has altered but little. The town has again been bombed and later occupied by Iraqi troops; but, although Sheikh Mahmoud is not at present in possession of the town, he is secure in the neighbouring hills and still able to harry those of the inhabitants who have in the past shown pro-British sympathies; and the presence of his gang in the district is a constant menace to what little trade remains. The fact that, on May 21 last, he was able to attack in the open a column of cavalry and inflict twenty-eight casualties and that, on June 4, his attack on a picquet on the Azmir Dagh resulted in a British officer being killed, signifies that the Sheikh is still a factor to be dealt with. There appears to be but little hope for the future of the Suleimaniyeh district until this disturbing element has been removed; and the state of disorder in that area on the flank of the Mosul Vilayet is a not inconsiderable threat to the peace of Iraq in general. The Turks still show eagerness to obtain a footing in Southern Kurdistan as a preliminary to further efforts against the British position in Iraq; and, unfortunately, the British and Iraq Governments' apparent inability or reluctance to deal effectively and fairly with the present disturbed situation there causes many of the peaceable majority to reflect that, perhaps, greater security might be secured by them should the district revert to the Turks.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on June 3, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance (Vice-President) being in the chair. There were also present, Messrs. T. C. Armitage, H. V. M. Clark, C. W. Hough, Edward Hurtley, Major Sydney A. Medcalf, Major G. B. Ollivant, Capt. the Hon. G. Saville, Mr. R. S. Summerhays, Major-Gen. Sir Hugh Tudor, and the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore. Letters of regret for not being able to be present were received from Mr. R. B. Colton Fox, Lt.-Col. W. A. MacDougall, Mr. G. H. Ruxton, and Major C. B. Toms.

The following new members were elected:—Erlanger, Baron Rudolph d', Sidi Bou Said, Tunis; Gallaher, Major A., D.S.O., M.C., Cavalry Club, London, S.W.; Imperial Livestock Insurance Co., Ltd., 27, Cavendish Square, London, W.; Kellogg, W. K., Battle Creek, Mich., U.S.A., Manning, F. J., Middle Farm, Streatley, near Dunstable, Murray-Wood, J., 41, Gt. Russell Street, London, W.C.; Vallance, Roy A., Park Nook, Gosforth, Cumberland; and Younghusband, E. W., North Lodge, Stanmore, Middlesex.

The Council decided to publish this year the next issue of the Arab-bred Register. The Council then adjourned until their next meeting in November.

A PERSIAN PLAY.

On Sunday, June 28, at 3.30 p.m., at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, the first performance will be given in London of "Arshin-Mal-Alan," a Persian musical comedy in four acts, by Hadji Bey. This Eastern romance, in which Mlle. Baddal, Mlle. Ankine, Mlle. Assia, and M. Harout will play the principal parts, and which contains Caucasian dances and Persian music, is, of course, well-known in the Near East. It has also been performed in France and in America.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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British Motor Cycle Success.

Motor cycle trials were held at Sofia recently, and it is supremely gratifying to be able to record the fact that all the chief prizes fell to a well-known British machine. The result of this success was an order for the manufacturers which only goes to show what I have many times emphasised in these columns that even allowing for present day disadvantages there is plenty of trade to be obtained in the Near East, given the requisite enterprise. In this case British quality won the day. As is the case with other commodities British motor cycles are dearer in Bulgaria than those of other countries, and the moral of the case I have quoted is that buyers in the Balkans are just as discriminating as they are elsewhere, and they are prepared to give the best goods the preference if they can. But it is essential if British firms are to do satisfactory business in the Balkans for buyers to have an opportunity of realising the quality of British goods. Advertising is essential, but it must be accompanied by an intensive campaign in the countries to which attention is being paid.

British Tyres in Bulgaria.

It is not only in motor cycles that British trade is showing signs of progress in Bulgaria. British tyres, it is reported, are gradually establishing themselves in that market. The question of price has militated against them in the past, but conditions have now materially altered in this respect, and it looks as though Bulgaria will provide a good outlet for British tyres in the future. One would like to add for motor cars also, but unfortunately so far our cars have not competed very successfully in the Balkans. Perhaps the Sofia success will encourage our manufacturers to make more strenuous efforts to gain a satisfactory footing in these markets.

Cotton-Growing in Iraq.

The appearance of the Diala Cotton Plantations prospectus during the past few days will have served to remind the public of the potentialities of the larger of the two Mandated territories with which this country is associated. I write before the lists have closed, and it must remain to be seen how the prospects have appealed to the investing public. Adequate capital can be obtained for the Sudan, but the Iraq figures largely as a *terra incognita* as a cotton-growing country. It contributed to the total of Empire-grown cotton 60 bales in 1920-21, the same in the following year, 300 bales in 1922-23, 1,100 bales in 1923-24, and the estimate for 1924-25 is 2,200 bales, a rate of progression which is at least distinctly promising for the future. The company is to develop in the first place 36,000 acres in the Diala zone, and it will have the right upon the construction of a weir on the Diala River at Table Mountain, together with canal headworks, feeder and branch canals, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, to have put at its disposal by the Government the remaining 72,000 acres included in the concession. Given adequate irrigation, the opinion is generally held that there is no reason why Iraq should not prove supremely successful from the cotton growing point of view and everyone will hope to see it become in the course of time a second Sudan.

Greek Loan Rumours.

Despite the numerous denials that a further Greek Refugee Loan is contemplated, the fact of the visit of the Governor of the National Bank of Greece to London is sufficient in itself to keep the belief alive that negotiations will shortly be in hand (if that is not the case already) for further financial assistance from this country. At any rate, as I indicated recently, the position may not improbably be summed up as being that Greece would like to initiate pourparlers with the banking group who were responsible for the loan, but is possibly doubtful as to the prospects of success. Personally, I do not see why there should be much difficulty in negotiating a further loan if one be needed, for Greece's credit stands high, and her economic position is indeed very satisfactory, exceptionally so if viewed in the light of the difficulties with which the country has been faced since the Armistice. I know that the view is taken in some quarters that for the time being Greece has received as much assistance as her economic status justifies, but in my opinion that is not borne out by the statistics. Even if it were Greece's trade and finance have shown a tendency to improve, and in view of the fact I do not think that a great risk would attach to a new loan.

Refugee Settlement in Greece.

Very appositely at this juncture there has just appeared the sixth quarterly report of the League of Nations on the work of the Refugee Settlement Commission. The International Loan yielded £9,974,543, and of this total £2,000,000 advanced by the Bank of England and £1,700,000 advanced by the National Bank of Greece had to be repaid, leaving £6,274,543. £800,000 of this amount was allocated for unforeseen expenses, and it was expected that the remainder would cover requirements till the end of 1927, at which date the repayment of advances to refugees was expected to become general. But these calculations have had to be modified, since, owing to the continued exodus to Greece of exchangeable persons from Turkey and Bulgaria, the number of families requiring settlement has steadily increased. The Commission was obliged to refuse about 6,000 refugee families, and the allowance to the other refugee families had to be reduced to the strict minimum. It is hoped to settle part of the refused families at an early date. The report adds that "it must be recalled here that, in addition to the 6,000 families in question, there are still tens of thousands of refugee families without homes or regular occupation. The Government is now undertaking a general census of these families, by means of which we hope to ascertain the exact number among this total of the agricultural families, those in which our Commission is more particularly interested. In view of this situation, the Greek

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Government and the other competent authorities are considering the possibility of obtaining the necessary funds for completing the operation of settling these refugees. Although discussions have so far no result, it may be hoped that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at, as the preliminary examination leaves no doubt that sufficient resources exist to make it possible to obtain the necessary funds."

Indian Tea Results.

This is the period when the reports of most of the Indian tea companies make their appearance, and elsewhere in this issue will be found extracts from a large number of them. Last year was not so favourable as regards climatic conditions as 1923, but the results of the companies, speaking generally, have again been very satisfactory, though in some instances the profits are not up to the high level of the previous year. I can only touch here on a few companies, whose results may be regarded as more or less representative of the position. The Makum (Assam) Company had a crop of 1,494,081 lb. as against 1,293,836 lb., and the profits show a slight increase at £43,033. The Nedeem Company's crop was 5,061,572 lb. as compared with 5,290,069 lb., and the profits are £138,470 as against £150,801. The crop of the Empire of India and Ceylon Company was 5,449,841 lb. as against 5,167,315 lb., the profits being about the same at £161,031. Finally, the Dooars Company had a crop considerably below the 1923 figures, and the profits are £143,851 as compared with £192,349.

Halem Tea.

At the meeting of the Halem Tea Company Sir Charles C. McLeod, the chairman, was able to give a most encouraging survey of the position of the company. Since last year's meeting the company has purchased the Nyagogra Tea Estate of 700 acres, bring the total acreage under tea to 1,700 acres, of which 1,304 acres are now yielding. The production of the past season showed an increase of 169,855 lb. due partly to the acquisition of the new estate, but mainly to certain portions of Halem proper coming into full bearing. Sir Charles McLeod said he took an optimistic view with regard to the prospects of the current season. "From latest reports from India," he said, "we learn that good early rain has fallen, and that the season has opened auspiciously; but as you know labour is the most important factor which ensures success, and without which estates cannot be expected to yield their maximum outturn of good quality tea. The past season has not been a good one for recruiting, but recent reports are a little more encouraging and no stone will be left unturned to augment our labour forces, especially at Nyagogra."

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

An interesting review of the position of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields was given by the chairman Sir Reginald MacLeod K.C.B., at the annual general meeting last week. He pointed out that the year 1924 was not so favourable for the company as its predecessor in that the net profits were down by £57,000, but on the other hand there were several encouraging features in the year's working. The new dehydrating plant was brought into operation at the end of June, and this has enabled the reopening of a number of old wells containing a high percentage of water in their production. The drilling at Hurghada itself was carried on successfully and at a lower cost than in any previous year. A small new producing area has been found, but the chairman pointed out that they were still unable to say very much about its extent or the prospect of the further wells, which are now being drilled there, although they believe that these are quite favourable. On the other hand the company failed to find oil with wells drilled in other areas. "So far," he added, "our diligent search for oil, with the help of the most experienced geologists and the most up-to-date geophysical methods, has been entirely negative in all the new fields which we have examined. The Hurghada field is still our mainstay, but it cannot last for ever and the necessity for finding further productive territory is a matter which continually engages the attention of the board. We have recently been granted licences over two islands in the Red Sea, the prospects of which can only be further tested by the drill, and we have already decided the location for a well on one of these."

The Exhibition.

The fact that it has been deemed desirable to reduce the admission charge to Wembley indicates very plainly that so far the Exhibition has not been so successful as was expected. Still these are early days, and with the holiday season just beginning there will doubtless soon be a marked improvement in the number of visitors. Of course, it was not to be anticipated that the Exhibition would be quite the attraction it was in its first year. No undertaking of the kind could be. But it ought to be much better attended than it has been, and it will be interesting to see how far the combined influences of the holidays and the reduced admission charge will serve to improve matters. Personally, I think the Exhibition labours under a great handicap in being rather far out. If it were more centrally situated many people would look in for an hour or two now and again; but to go to Wembley means that half a day at the least must be devoted if anything is to be seen of the Exhibition.

COMMENTATOR.

Major-General Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, left London last week for Paris, to discuss with the French Government the establishment of British air lines to India.

M. Anghel Saligny, the Roumanian engineer, who was responsible for all the greatest modern engineering works of Roumania, including the bridge over the Danube at Cernavoda and the ports of Constantza, Galatz, and Braila, died last week at Bucharest.

Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son have opened an office in New Street, Baghdad, and have arranged in conjunction with the Iraq Railways and a service of motor-cars easy tours to the sites and ruins of Babylon, Nineveh, Kish, Ur of the Chaldees, and other famous cities.

August 20 has been fixed by the Viceroy for the opening of the autumn Session of the Indian Legislature, when important labour legislation which is pending, and the question of protection for the coal, steel, and other industries will come up for consideration.

A fund is being raised in India by individual subscription limited to seven and a half rupees (about 11s) to provide a portrait of Lord Rawlinson for Lady Rawlinson. A replica of the portrait will be hung at Snowdon, the residence of the late Commander-in-Chief at Simla.

Sir Edward Elias Sassoon, of Grosvenor Place, S.W., late senior partner in Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., merchants and bankers, of London, India, and China, left estate of the gross value of £488,343, with net personalty £80,159. He left £5,000 to the executors for such charitable objects as they may think fit.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅜—$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	297-299
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	284-287
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.44
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.02-25.05
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	81$\frac{1}{16}$—18$\frac{3}{32}$d.
Brussels	Francs to £	25.29½	105.15 .25
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1.062
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-348.000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18$\frac{15}{16}$—18$\frac{31}{32}$d.
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	895—905
New York	Dollars to £	4.86.23	4.86—4.86⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	104.10—.20
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	199⅜
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	680
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.50-34.55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.25-25.40

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AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 300 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 5.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

From its very creation, i.e., from the liberation from the Turks until to-day, the Serbian State has had the problem of the agricultural class constantly before it. Since 1836 this problem has resolved itself into two legislative policies: (1) the protection of the peasant from over-indebtedness, and (2) the provision of credit for the advancement of agriculture. Legislative measures on these lines have been both active and passive. Perhaps the best known passive measures are the famous regulations of Prince Milosh of 1836, by which a fixed minimum of the peasants' land cannot be mortgaged or sold. Among the active measures are the laws which from time to time have provided agricultural credits from the State treasury and other public funds, and the laws suppressing usury by limiting the rate of interest and by laying down the method of obtaining credit. The greatest effort made by the State was in 1862, when it founded the great central mortgage institution at Belgrade (Fund Administration) to provide credits for building houses and for the encouragement of agriculture and its protection from usury.

Serbia has, nevertheless, suffered the same experience as other States which have tried to solve the problem of agricultural credits. This experience has shown first that the State cannot help agriculture directly, because intermediaries always intrude between it and the peasant, and either raise the rate of the credit or alienate it from agriculture for other speculative ends. Secondly, the State cannot control the productive use of credits which are often used unproductively instead of productively, with the result that the debtor cannot pay back the loan. For these reasons the peasants have not reaped much benefit from the State's real and laudable efforts to assist agriculture. One result has been that the great mortgage institution which had mobilised all the disposable funds of the Serbian State turned its attention from agriculture to the erection of buildings in towns, especially in Belgrade. From the foundation of the mortgage institution until to-day, agriculture has received hardly fifteen per cent. of the available credit. This amount too was obtained mainly by large landowners.

In 1894 a new movement was initiated by M. Avramovitch to liberate the small peasant owner from the village usurer and overindebtedness, in the form of agricultural credit co-operative societies. The success of this movement showed the Government that credits to small landowners must be given in co-operative form, for the co-operative society alone can give credit cheaply and directly to the peasant, avoiding middlemen who raise the rate of interest, and control the productive use of the credit, and see that it is actually used for the advancement of agriculture and eventually paid back.

In view of the excellent results of the agricultural credit co-operative societies the State assisted them by a very good co-operative law in 1898, which gave them taxation and other privileges and subsidies. The problem of providing agricultural credits arose again after the world War. The State was enlarged by the addition of provinces which were also mainly agricultural in character. In them the lack of credits was even more acute than in Serbia, because no limit was set to the peasant's indebtedness, while cheap credit was inaccessible to the small holder. Here also agricultural co-operative societies had grown up and had protected the people from economic ruin and thus paved the way for liberation and union. These provinces were disjointed owing to the dualism and particularism of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, whose policy it was to segregate its provinces (*divide et impera*), with the result that their co-operatives also had a racial and particularist character.

After the liberation all the co-operative federations were united into one chief S.H.S. Co-operative Federation at Belgrade, but the force of tradition made each federation retain complete autonomy. The Chief Federation at Belgrade has gradually brought more closely together the dependent federations, by working at the unification of the co-operative law, co-operative privileges, principles and programme. Its policy has been most successful, and the Chief Federation has succeeded in keeping its members united even in the days of the greatest political disunion between the various provinces and peoples.

Since its renewed appearance subsequent to the War, the problem of agricultural credits has passed through various phases. The first schemes did not try to maintain any connection with agricultural credit co-operative societies. The main principle of their framers was that agricultural credit should be separate from those for other branches of economic life. In order to save running expenses, the direction of agricultural credit was to be combined with that of the State mortgage institution. The co-operative societies, however, demanded, in opposition to this scheme, that agricultural credit should be given exclusively in a co-operative form, because every other form

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would mean not credit but State subsidy, as it would be impossible to ensure productive use and repayment. The result was the so-called compromise proposals, which were to give a certain percentage (50 per cent.) of credit through co-operative channels, and the rest through State credit institutions, municipalities, etc. This scheme was not adopted, however, by those politicians who wished co-operation to lose its racial and provincial character.

Meanwhile the opinion gained ground more and more strongly that agricultural credit could not succeed, if it did not retain a strictly co-operative character. This led to the first legislative proposal of the Minister Dr. Kulovatch that agricultural credit should be distributed exclusively through the co-operative federations and their credit co-operatives, and that for this purpose a "Chief Credit Co-operative" should be established with a capital of 500,000,000 dinars.

Political changes brought with them in May this year another new scheme, combining co-operative credit and strong State influence, its chief aim being by means of new privileged co-operative societies to achieve the amalgamation of racial co-operatives. On June 9 this scheme became law. The new law is modelled on French credit co-operation (by Dr. Stoykovitch). Credit will be supplied through an Agricultural Credit Administration. This body will be composed of one member from each of the State Council, Chief Accounts Control, National Bank, State Mortgage Bank and Ministry of Finance, together with seven members appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. Of these seven, two are to be from the Chief Co-operative Federation. They are to form the link between the present co-operatives and the new as organised by the new law. The new law, however, makes a great difference in the method of crediting. At present the co-operatives together with agricultural societies, get at most fifteen per cent. of the available credit capital at the National Bank rate, while the new credit co-operatives, which through the provincial co-operatives will be members of the Agricultural Credit Management, will get short or medium term credits at four per cent., and long loans at a maximum of three per cent.

This large difference in the rate of interest is to form the chief means of bringing about racial amalgamation of co-operation. Naturally this amalgamation policy will depend on the Supervisory Committee of the Agricultural Credit Management. This Committee will consist of three groups:—Ten State representatives, two representatives of the existing co-operative societies, and representatives of the new provincial co-operatives. The last will gradually increase if the new co-operative scheme develops favourably. As there are 33 provinces in the S.H.S. Kingdom, there may eventually be 33 provincial co-operative representatives in the Agricultural Credit Administration.

Thus in time co-operative influence will strengthen at the expense of that of the State which is now disproportionately large, i.e., 10 to 2. But in the beginning during the transition phase much care and tact will be needed, if the whole foundation of co-operation is not to be shaken.

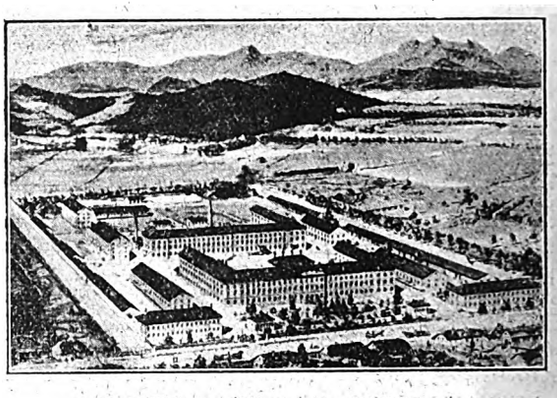
I am convinced that this new co-operative law will be so executed that a very short time will see achieved a complete harmony of working between the old and the new co-operative systems.

DR. LJUDEVIT PROHASKA.
Secretary to the Chief Co-operative Federation, Belgrade.

VRNYACHKA BANYA.

Vrnyachka Banya, the most frequented spa in the S.H.S. Kingdom and in the Balkans, is situated in the Krushevatz administrative province at the foot of the Goch Mountains in the valley of the Vrnyachka stream. It lies 226 metres above sea level, and two and a half miles from the western Morava. The valley of Vrnyachka Banya, which is open only on the side of the Morava and on all other sides is enclosed by mountains, is also intersected by numbers of small hills and valleys, so that it is well protected against sudden changes of temperature, and especially from northerly winds. All the hills around

State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration,
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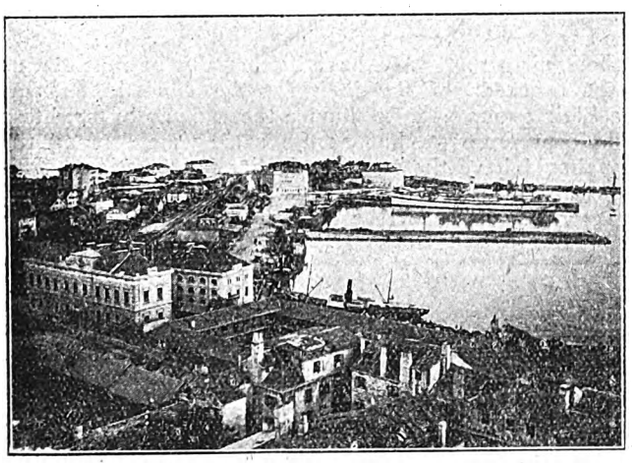
the spa are covered with the very rare sweet-smelling Juniper, which is green all the year. The summits of the Goch Mountains and the foothills are covered with forests, centuries old, of ever-green, oak, beech and enormous firs. Every kind of fruit also flourishes in the vicinity of the spa. Through the valley flows the Vrnyachka river, rapid and clear. The land in the district is neither cultivated nor built over for factory purposes, and the air is, therefore always pure and free from dust and smoke. The temperature of the spa varies from 12-22 degrees Cent. (53.6-71.6 degrees Fahr.), and its relative humidity from 60-70 per cent. The range of temperature between winter and summer is 12 degrees Centigrade (22 Fahr.).

These facts show that the climate in itself has medicinal advantages for many illnesses. Its health-giving properties, due largely to the radio-activity of the air, can be seen in the effect on visitors, who arrive often quite weak and pale, to leave after three weeks invigorated and fresh. The spa was known in Roman times. During the regulation of the water this winter, a Roman basin was found, in which there were up to 300 various copper coins of the period 100 years before and after the Christian era. The money was in an excellent state of preservation and without a speck of rust.

Since the regulation of the water this year, the springs yield 480 litres per minute. It is palatable, contains carbonic acid, is not very salt, and is colourless and clear.



The Harbour of Split (Spalato).

Tested with litmus paper it shows a small alkaline reaction. It is, therefore, an Alkalisch Sauerling. The specific gravity of the water, at an air temperature of 22 deg. Cent., is 1.0029. The water is of two kinds, hot and cold. The average temperature of the former being 35.1 degrees Cent. (95 degrees Fahr.).

The following is the chemical analysis of the hot mineral water:—

1,000 grams contain:—

KCl	0.0880
$KHCO_3$	0.0531
NA HCO_3	2.0028
Fe_2HCO_3	0.0028
Al_2HCO_3	0.0063
Ca_2HCO_3	0.3322
Mg_2HCO_3	0.4116
$Li\,HCO_3$	0.0003
NH_2CO_3	0.0021
Na_2SiO_3	0.1740
CO_3	1.2216

The chemical analysis of 1,000 grams of the cold mineral water is as follows:—

SiO_2	0.035
Fe_2O_3 and Al_2O_3	0.005
CaO and $CaCO_3$	0.236
MgO	0.136
CO_3	1.400

Of the mineral constituents of the water, the most important are soda, iron, carbonic acid and litium carbonate. The rest only assist the action of these.

Vrnyachka Banya water contains almost twice as much soda and five times as much carbonic acid as the world-famous springs of Carlsbad. Moreover, it is radioactive. The water successfully cures catarrh of the nose, throat and lungs, catarrh of the stomach (especially where there is an excess of acid), catarrh of the gall bladder and swelling of the liver, gout, diabetes and various bilious and urinary diseases, inflamation of the kidneys, catarrh of the bladder and various feminine disorders. Anæmic and consumptive patients should not visit this spa, especially those with deficient acid in the stomach. Drinking of the waters here harms such cases. Patients are also cured by bathing in the hot mineral waters, which abound in carbonic acid.

The spa is visited by patients from all over the Balkans, and recently there have been many from Hungary and Roumania. The number of visitors last year was 23,000.

Dr. Zivko Prodanovitch.

YUGOSLAVIA'S MARITIME POLICY.

Continued from p. 570 (May 28).

II.

Italy made several attempts to solve the problem of communication along the eastern Adriatic shore in her own favour. Although unsuccessful at first, she reopened the question again, hoping to meet with better results. An inquiry on the part of Yugoslavia among all interested circles gave the expected answer that Italy should in no case be allowed cabotage rights along the Yugoslav coast. Her desire to obtain these rights, it is believed in Yugoslavia, is to be associated with a determination to attain, by means of gradual penetration, supremacy on the eastern Adriatic, which she regards as the chief aim of her economic policy. No other Continental country except Turkey has ever allowed the right of coasting between her ports to ships of other nations: and even Turkey recently annulled this right. It would greatly harm the international prestige of the Kingdom if Yugoslavia were to adopt of her own free will a policy which Turkey considered injurious and degrading. In settling this question the interests both of the State and of Yugoslav shipping must be considered and the gains balanced by the loss likely to be suffered in giving away coasting rights.

The alienation of such a right, it is held, would grievously harm not only Yugoslav shipping, but also the general economic interests of the country. Shipping companies would soon cease to exist, and unemployment in the coastal districts would be increased. There can be no illusion as to the result, inasmuch as Italian tonnage amounts to 2,700,000, whereas that of Yugoslavia is only 150,000 tons, or just one-twentieth. Thus under equal conditions, Yugoslavia's shipping would be stifled on her own coast, and any idea of Yugoslav vessels doing coastal service between Italian ports would be out of the question. Even supposing that there might be some small gain, it would be more than outweighed by the loss sustained through Italian service along the Yugoslav coast.

The Italian demand for coasting rights cannot be considered as a desire for co-operation between two maritime States, for Yugoslavia cannot forget the motives that actuate it, and must judge accordingly. What would be entailed by Italy's coastal rights on the Yugoslav coast is evident from her record in the Zadar zone, where her vessels enjoy a disproportionately large subsidy and are able to work their way into Yugoslav ports which are inaccessible to local shipping. Similarly, the way in which Italy would stifle the progress of Yugoslav shipping is evident from the proposed Italian plan for co-operation with Yugoslav companies.

Our travelling service could gain but little from Italian coasting, because the Italian service is organised so as to direct all foreigners to Italian ports. Nor could we expect gain from customs duties, because Italian boats would have to enjoy the same harbour and customs privileges as ours would be supposed to enjoy in Italy. The manner of treating our home produce shipped to Italy *via* Fiume could be settled by separate negotiations independent of the coasting rights; but this is scarcely

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necessary, for we can always send our goods *via* Sushak. Finally, subsequent negotiations may correct some of our mistakes in not getting an extra-territorial character for our Free Zone at Salonika, but the consequences of these mistakes cannot be remedied now by giving coasting rights to Italy.

For the sake of doubtful gains for one line of steamers, no concession should be made which would injure our more important companies and our shipping as a whole. Individual interests must not be allowed to interfere with public interests as a whole. While shipping must take care of its own interests, these cannot be suffered to injure those of the State. We have already explained that we must maintain our international prestige and avoid being put on a par with Turkey and Albania. If our coastal shipping is ruined, what will happen to our coastal communications which are essential to the State? Shall the conveyance of the mails be given to the successful Italian boats? Shall military transport between our ports be carried on by foreign vessels? What would be the position of our Civil and State officials, if they have to make official journeys on the boats of a foreign State? We must also not forget the question of defence, which is bound up with that of Italian coasting rights. The danger of Italian companies having on our coast their agents and agencies who could watch every one of our steps is self-evident.

It is also clear that such rights would infuse new life into all Italian colonies and connections in Dalmatia from Sushak to Dulcigno. It must not be forgotten that many Dalmatian industries are in Italian hands, and that in Dalmatia there are several thousands of Italianised Dalmatians.

The last War has shown very clearly, in France especially, to what the peaceful penetration of foreigners in a country may lead. The peace negotiations also showed what arguments could be made on the basis of small colonies within foreign territory and the conflict for the possession of such oases. For these reasons it was necessary to refuse coasting rights to Italian vessels even with the right of reciprocity, for the granting of such would have greatly injured our economic position, our political prestige, and our defence. Our refusal, therefore, must be regarded as the first step towards a free maritime policy.

JASHA GRGASHEVITCH.

(To be continued.)

RAILWAYS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

New Railway Programme.

The new Minister of Communications, M. Radoyevitch, recently invited representatives of the Belgrade Press to meet him, and outlined to them his railway programme.

"Our first business," declared M. Radoyevitch, "will be to continue the efforts made hitherto for the re-establishment of normal conditions. A circular has been sent round prescribing that all delays of more than five minutes must be reported to headquarters and inquired into. Another circular reminds the stationmasters that they are responsible for the cleanliness of the trains.

The Adriatic Railway.

You are aware that the Minister of Finance and I have been engaged in long negotiations with the representatives of the Blair group. We have discussed especially the use of the proceeds of the loan for the Adriatic Railway. The Blair group offer to finance the railway by credits at 9 per cent. interest, but at the same time demand that they should have the contract for its construction. This, however, has aroused the protests of the contractors' and engineers' societies of the country. I believe that some

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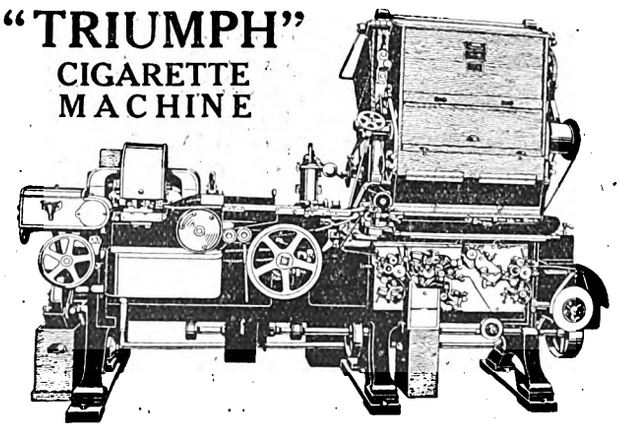

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other solution will be found. The group may consent to finance the undertaking, and present themselves merely as entrepreneurs when the contracts are being awarded. If this solution should be reached the question of the Adriatic line may be expected to come before Parliament again, for its opinion on the actual route to be taken by the railway.

The Belgrade-Panchevo Bridge.

Although this is a question of real importance it has not been yet brought before the Ministerial Council in its final form. The chief reason for the delay is the high price of construction, 500 million dinars. Nevertheless negotiations for the realisation of this large undertaking are going on with various companies. There is one British offer of 7½ million dollars, together with the supply of material, and an American offer of 3 million dollars. Both of these amounts are insufficient for the whole work and the possibility is being considered of using them for the construction of the piles, and of ordering the metal construction as reparations from Germany.

Miscellaneous Measures.

In the meantime some other important schemes are about to be realised. To-morrow, perhaps even this evening, I intend to lay the scheme for the enlargement of the port of Split before the Ministerial Council. This will cost about 10,500,000 dinars.

New lodgings for railway men are urgently needed. That many families should be living in railway trucks is a conditions of affairs which should not be. I have obtained the temporary permission of the Minister of War for the postponement of the eviction of the men living in one of the Zagreb barracks.

At the present moment the departments of the Ministry of Communications are housed in ten different buildings. This means much loss of time and high rent costs. The erection of the new Ministry of Communications near the station will soon be begun.

Hitherto we have been spending large sums abroad for the repair of our stock, although we have the necessary material for such work in the country. What we lack is blast furnaces at the Liubija mines. The Commission which has been investigating the problem has come to the conclusion that repair shops should be built at Kraljevo. This would be sufficient to meet the needs of the country.

The renewal of rails on the Belgrade-Zagreb line has already been begun as a temporary measure, until double lines can be laid down throughout the whole length of the main route Liubliana—Skoplje.

We hope to open communications on the Lika line in June. Four engineers are surveying the new narrow-gauge line Belgrade-Obrenovats, which will give through connection from Belgrade to Dubrovnik.

CROP CONDITIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Report for Period May 1 to 15, 1925.

The general condition of crops throughout the Kingdom is very good, both as regards winter and spring sowings. Orchards and vineyards report conditions between good and very good.

Winter Sowings.

Excellent in Vranya and Bachka districts. *Very good*, Liubliana, Maribor, Srem (Danube), Drina (Valjevo), Skumadija, Morava, Pozarevats, Nish, Skoplje, Bregnalnitza, Bitolj, Rashka, Uzice, Krushevatz, and Vrbas districts. *Good to very good*, Kossovo, Tuzla, and Sarayevo districts. *Good*, Primorije, Osek, Belgrade, Zeta, Split, and Travnik districts.

Spring Sowings.

Spring sowings are developing well and succulently owing to plenteous rain and good general climatic conditions. All sowings completed except in districts where changeable weather hindered sowing and field work. In some part floods are holding up work, but flooded districts will not greatly affect the year's crop of the Kingdom. Further, although rains and floods have hindered work in some parts, good weather will probably enable spring sowings to be completed.

Weather.

Weather in the first half of May was very unsteady, with rain most of the time, which caused the rivers and streams to overflow and flood the surrounding districts. There were local floods in the following districts:—Liubliana, Maribor, Primorije, Tuzla, Osek, Morava, Krushevatz, and Vrbas. There was also hail, which caused considerable damage to orchards and vineyards in parts of Drina, Valyevo, Shumadija, Nish, Vranye, Uzice, and Krushevatz districts.

Field Work.

Sowing of maize, mangolds and sugar beet, potatoes and garden crops is practically finished. Sowing only continues in the parts where rain reduced the number of working days, and prevented completion. Early potatoes, beans, and peas have been once dug over, as well as early maize. In the vineyards work has been begun on spraying with Bordeaux mixture, powdering with sulphur, and the first digging of the vineyards.

Pests.

As a result of the heavy rain in the first half of May some cryptogamous blights appeared, but to a small extent. Mice appeared in small numbers, but were destroyed by the rains. In Osek district hamster has also appeared, but is being diligently destroyed for its fur. Most harm in orchards is done by the louse, and by the plum pest, which appeared in largest quantities in the Uzice district. Measures have been taken for the extirpation of these pests.

Condition of Stock.

The general condition of stock throughout the Kingdom is good. The contagious diseases most prevalent are swine fever, some local anthrax and tick and louse among sheep.

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 1925-1926.

The Minister of Finance has laid before Parliament the Budget and Finance Bill proposed for 1925-26. The chief items are the following:—

Estimated expenditure, 11,910,000,000 dinars, divided as follows:—

Supreme State Administration	1,076,152.608.93
Ministry of Justice	279.208,955.13
„ „ Education	749 587,'03.77
„ „ Religion	115.164.387.05
„ „ Interior	606 704.965 97
„ „ Public Health	3''7.181.777.55
„ „ Foreign Affairs	227.552.209 45
„ „ Finance	1.767,192.398 04
„ „ War and Navy	2,248,2'9.366.40
„ „ Construction	474.047,781.—
„ „ Communications	2,234.578.987.36
„ „ Post and Telegraphs ...	409.598 19?.19
„ „ Agriculture and Waters ...	277.201.605 45
„ „ Forests and Mines... ...	359.872.510.61
„ „ Commerce and Industry ...	91.681,193 35
„ „ Social Politics	459 984.5'7.44
„ „ Agrarian Reform	75,388 658.18
„ „ Unification of Laws ...	642.742.13
Budgetary Reserves	140,000,000.—
Total Expenditure	11,910,000,000.—

Receipts are estimated at the same figures, i.e., 11,910,000,000 dinars.

Customs and Duties	1,69'.0'0.000.—
Consumptions Tolls and Dues	1,810.000.000.—
Monopolies	2,468.050 000.—
Agio and Exchange	163 000 000.—
Tax on Business Turnover	225.100.000 —
Railways	2,46',850,000 —
Postal Savings Bank and Financial Instit.	15,'00.000.—
Supertax for Disabled	140.000 000 —
Maritime Administration	70 000 000.—
Extraordinary Supertax of 500% and 30%...	500 000,000.—
State Domains	235 000,000.—
Other Taxes	910.000.' 00.—
State Economic Institutions	1,120 000 000 —
Various	101,000.000.—
Total Receipts	11,9'0,000 000.—

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THE PLUM CROP.

With warm weather and rain the plums are progressing satisfactorily, and a good harvest is in prospect. In some parts there have been violent storms with heavy rain, around Tchachak, for example, but no news as to damage is forthcoming up to present.. Judgment cannot yet be passed on quality, as the fruit is not sufficiently developed, and consequently the prices this year cannot be accurately estimated. Advance business is rarely concluded before August, and those transactions which are executed early are merely in the nature of negotiations.

Quite recently news has been circulated that truckloads of 80-85, 95-100, and 110-120 have been demanded at prices varying from 550 to 650 dinars.

As regards opening prices for the season, it must be borne in mind that very little brandy was distilled last year, so that there is likely to be a large demand for that purpose. There is also likely to be greater manufacture of plum preserve. Consequently prices probably tend to rise.

TRANSPORT RATES.

The Tariff Section of the Ministry of Communications is completing its proposals for a new transport tariff on export goods. The chief characteristic of the new proposals is the tendency to substitute direct rates for the present system. The new method will diminish the total charges which at present fall heavily on certain branches of industry. The introduction of direct tariffs will raise to a certain extent tariffs B. and C., as well as the exceptional tariff 1 and 2, but this increase will be very slight compared with the present rate.

Export tariffs will be valid for the routes in all directions from the centre of production to the frontier. It is hoped that they will favour the seaports. The tariffs will be considerably reduced, inasmuch as the rise of the dinar has brought about a certain stagnation in export. Moreover the harvest promises to be much larger in the neighbouring States, and this will make competition much keener than last year.

DIRECT TAXATION.

A Revision of Methods.

The Minister of Finance, M. Stoyadinovitch, has appointed a commission of experts from among the officials of his own department and outside, to draw up a definitive scheme of direct taxation for the whole Kingdom. The Commission has already begun its work with a study of the suggestions sent to the Ministry of Finance from the various organisations in the country.

The Growth of Revenue.

The steady growth of revenue from direct taxation was evident in 1924, and the budget year 1924-25. The amount paid as direct taxation in the various districts, not reckoning the tax on business turnover, state the State 500 per cent. and 30 per cent. supertaxes, and the Disabled tax for the year 1924 (i.e. from Jan 1 to Dec. 31, 1924), was 798,839,047 dinars, and for the budget year 1924-25 (i.e., from April 1, 1924, to March 31, 1925) 859,614,562 dinars, an increase of 60,775,514 dinars for the budget year. The amount estimated in the 1924-25 Budget, however, was 669,352,157 dinars which means that 129,486,890 dinars more were paid in the taxation year 1924, and 190,262,405 more in the budget year, than was estimated.

The tax on business turnover and State supertaxes, yielded in the calendar year 1924 647,498,476 dinars, in the budget year 1924 -25,659,505,572 dinars, while the amount estimated in the Budget was 700,000,000 dinars. The deficit of 52,601,523 dinars in the calendar year 1924 and of 40,594,427 dinars in the Budget year 1924-25 means that actual revenue was almost exactly estimated, especially as the yield from these taxes is on the increase. This is best illustrated by the fact of the decrease of the deficit by about 12,000,000 dinars in the three months between the calendar and budget years.

A comparison of the total actual receipts from direct taxation:—in 1924 (calendar year) 798,839,047 plus 647,498,476 equals 1,446,337,524 dinars, and in 1924-25 budget year 859,614,562 plus 659,505,572 equals 1,519,120,135 dinars—with the Budget estimate (1924-25) of 1,369,352,182 shows that the receipts are 11 per cent. above the estimates. In the calendar year the surplus was 76,985,367 dinars, and in the budget year 149,767,978 dinars.

Attention may be called in particular to the increase in income from direct taxation in the budget year 1924-25 not only over the estimated amount, but also over the amount paid in the calendar year 1924, because the last three months of the budget year January—March, 1925, coincided with the election campaign. Comparing those three months with the corresponding three months of 1924, we see that there is a steady upward tendency, both in ordinary direct taxes, State supertaxes and the Disabled tax, and in the business turnover tax and extraordinary State supertaxes. Direct taxes, Disabled tax and State supertaxes yielded in the first three months of 1924 146,286,093 dinars, and in the same three months of 1925 207,061,608 dinars, or 60,775,514 dinars more. The tax on business turnover and extraordinary State supertaxes yielded in the same period in 1924, 104,751,450 dinars and in 1925 116,758,546 dinars, or 12,007,096 dinars more.

It is particularly interesting how much direct taxation has advanced among the sources of State revenue. Whereas in 1921 direct taxation provided 7 per cent. of the revenue of the State, in 1922-23 8 per cent. and in 1923-24 13.89 per cent. it rose in 1924-25 to 14.60 per cent.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

BELGRADE, May 31, 1925

ASSETS.		
Cash—		
Gold	72,388,339 15	
Silver	17,458,076 20	
Foreign Bank Notes	2,090,398 16	
At Call in Foreign Countries	366,085,996 68	
		458,022 810 19
Portfolio Bills	994,273,113 33	
Advances on Securities	197,896,105 75	
		1,192,169,219 08
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,906 76
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366,015,130 74
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138.377 163 —
Sundries		6 7,923,652 90
		8,925,230.916 67
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		27,911,600 —
Legal Reserve		6.222.961 77
Bank Notes in Circulation		5,770,829,200 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366,015,130 74
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		24,469,337 01
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	311,553,866 62	
Special Accounts	205,817.243 53	
		517,371,110 15
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,034,414 —
Sundry Accounts		8,925,230.916 67

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined, silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6 per cent, loan on securities 8 per cent

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Company Meetings.

HALEM TEA COMPANY.

Optimistic View of Current Season.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Halem Tea Company, Ltd., was held on June 17 at the registered offices, 50 and 51, Lime Street, E.C., Sir Charles C. McLeod, Bart., presiding.

Mr. A. M. Halls, representing the Managing Agents and Secretaries (Messrs. McLeod, Russel and Co.), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—As the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, take them as read.

When I had the pleasure of addressing you last year I terminated my remarks by saying that we could with some confidence look forward to a prosperous state of affairs in our next report, and, having carefully perused the report before you, I feel sure that you will all agree that my then optimism has been fully justified. Since our meeting last year, as you no doubt all know, we have purchased the Nyagogra Tea Estate of 700 acres, bringing our total acreage under tea up to 1,700 acres, out of which 1,304 acres are now yielding. The cost of the new estate to the company was £20,000 (less £3,333 on account of new buildings, machinery, etc., on order but not paid for at the time of purchase), which in these days must be considered a very low figure, especially so when it is noted that the greater part of the area was planted out in 1920 and 1921, and will therefore very soon be coming into full bearing.

In addition to the £20,000 mentioned above, our issued capital has been increased a further £5,000 by the issue of 5,000 shares, which were offered to the shareholders at 50s. per share, and realised the very substantial premium of £7,542. This sum will be utilised to fully equip both gardens with the most up-to-date buildings and machinery in the near future.

Our issued capital now stands at £75,000, whilst our block account amounts to only £55,054. In adittion we have £12,542 standing at credit of reserve and share premium account. You will therefore see that we have the substantial working capital of £32,488, which should enable us to finance the crop without borrowing. It is most satisfactory to know that the cost per acre of the company is only a little over £32.

I am glad to be able to report that Nyagogra showed a profit of £1,100 on the season's working, which, considering it has only been planted four years, must be looked upon as an excellent result, and as each year the estate comes into fuller bearing, there is every reason to expect that the profits earned by this new purchase will greatly increase, and by so doing augment the total earning to the Halem Company. The outturn for the past season shows a substantial increase of 169,855 lb., due partly to the addition of Nyagogra, but in the main to certain portions of Halem proper coming into full bearing, also climatic conditions as far as these two gardens were concerned were throughout the season favourable. The quality of our teas has been well reported on, and the price obtained in London was 1d. per lb. more than in 1923, whilst the Nyagogra teas, sold in Calcutta, fetched over Rs. 1 per lb.

Turning to the analysis of expenditure on the last page, you will no doubt have seen that this shows an increase of £8,041 as compared with last year, but against this the cost of new buildings, machinery, and electrical installation amounting to £4,405 has been credited back to revenue account on page 7 and debited to block account. The balance of the excess expenditure is accounted for by the increased crop and higher rate of exchange which ruled during the past year.

With regard to the prospects for the current season, I take an optimistic view, and provided the quality of our teas is maintained I do not see that we have anything to fear. Our managers have had strict and implicit instructions with regard to plucking, and you may rest assured these will be duly carried out.

From latest reports from India we learn that good early rain has fallen, and that the season has opened auspiciously; but as you know labour is the most important factor which ensures success, and without which estates cannot be expected to yield their maximum outturn of good quality tea.

The past season has not been a good one for recruiting, but recent reports are a little more encouraging and no stone will be left unturned to augment our labour forces, especially at Nyagogra. Although a large labour force is necessary to keep a garden in a good state of cultivation, it is equally essential to have a large force for plucking, as unless there are enough coolies to pluck the garden systematically at short intervals, leaf gets coarse, with the result that the teas are of poor quality and stalky.

As you are no doubt aware, it has been agreed by the members of the Indian Tea Association not to sell crops forward this season, which move I feel sure is a wise one and will do a great deal towards maintaining a healthy market throughout the season.

I do not think there is need for me to say any more, but if any shareholder wishes to ask any questions I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

I now beg to move that the published report and accounts as issued to the shareholders be and are hereby received and adopted; that a final dividend of 25 per cent., less tax, making 40 per cent., less tax, for the year, be paid forthwith, and that the balance remaining at the credit of profit and loss account be disposed of acording to the proposals as set forth in the report.

Sir Frederic G. Painter seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The auditors having been reappointed, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the agents and staff in India.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Exploration Work.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., was held on June 19, at Winchester House, E.C. Sir Reginald MacLeod, K.C.B., Chairman of the company, presided.

The secretary (Mr. W. A. Turner, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, you will already have received a copy of the report and balance-sheet, which we are met here to-day to consider, and I presume that you will wish to take it as read.

Well, gentlemen, it is always a more pleasant task for a Chairman to perform if he is able to propose to the shareholders that the dividend should be increased or at any rate maintained, than if, as in the present case, he has to propose a small reduction. I feel, however, that I shall be able to lay before you a not unsatisfactory account of our operations in 1924 and of our prospects for 1925.

You will see from the profit and loss account that the amount of £452,598 under the heading "oil proceeds and value of oil stocks," is lower by £78,747 than the figure for 1923.

The prices obtained for our products were, on the average, taken over the whole year, lower than those obtained in 1923, particularly in the case of fuel oil, which comprises far the largest proportion of the products obtained from our crude. The bulk of our products are sold in Egypt, where there is strong competition from imported benzine and kerosene, and where the sale of fuel oil has been rather seriously affected by the present very low prices for imported coal.

We believe that the successful operation of the new dehydrating plant will shortly enable the bulk of our fuel oil to be sold at the more favourable prices which, so far, have only been obtainable for fuel oil produced from our dry crude.

Turning to the other side of the profit and loss account, you will see that we have been able to effect considerable reductions in a number of the items of expenditure. Thus, the expenditure under the heading "working, drilling, and general expenses," at £148,899, is less by £20,162 than the figures for the previous year.

This expenditure would have been further reduced but for the fact that three wells were drilled on concessions outside the Hurghada area, which, of course, cost a great deal more to drill than if they had been on the main field.

The other items on this side of the account call for no particular comment until we come to "refinery working cost." The figure for 1924 is £119,987, as against £143,180 for the previous year, showing a reduction under this heading of £23,193.

Refinery Operations.

You will, no doubt, have noticed that our refinery operations have cost us £3,410 more than they did in the previous year. This does not represent any actual increase in the cost of refining, but is due to a falling off of £26,600 in our receipts for refining imported oil. We have, as the shareholders are aware, most favourable arrangements with the Asiatic Petroleum Company, by which we make a considerable profit upon the quantities of foreign oil which we handle for them in Egypt. This profit has resulted in past years in a very large reduction in refining costs. Unfortunately, in the present year—by present year I mean the year we are dealing with now—the quantities for which they have been able to utilise

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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our Suez refinery have been smaller than in previous years. The business is necessarily of the nature of a windfall, as, when the refinery was built, no such source of income was relied upon, but we have been fortunate in securing large profits from this source for a number of years, and this has been a not inconsiderable factor in the strengthening of our resources in general. We hope this business may continue in the future, but it must necessarily depend upon circumstances of supply and demand, which are wholly outside our control.

From the figures which I have given to you, you will see that the year 1924 has not been as favourable for our company as its predecessor, in that our net profits are down by £57,000, but, on the other hand, there are several features in the year's working which are both interesting and encouraging, and I will say a few words about each of them.

New Dehydrating Plant.

In the first place, the new dehydrating plant was brought into successful operation at the end of June. I have told you at previous meetings, the importance which is attached to this and the benefits which we hoped to derive from its operation, and I am pleased to say that it has exceeded our expectations. One of the most important benefits is that it has enabled a number of old wells containing a high percentage of water in their production, to be re-opened.

Our drilling at Hurghada itself was carried on successfully, and at a lower cost than in any previous year. On the main field, we completed two wells, both of which are producers. We also completed two wells on the Northern extension of the Hurghada Field, the existence of which, as productive territory, was partially proved in the previous year. During the current year we have completed two further wells in this area, one of which is producing, while the other has been a failure. While, therefore, we can say that a small new producing area has been proved, we are still unable to say very much about its extent or the prospect of the further wells, which are now being drilled there, although we believe that these are quite favourable.

As against the success of our drilling in the Hurghada area, we must, I regret to say, set off our failure to find oil with wells drilled in other areas. During the year, we completed a well at Habashi, and in an area near Gemsah, both of which were drilled in apparently favourable structures which, however, proved not to contain oil. During the current year we have continued the well at Ras Gharib, but, after drilling to about 3,000 feet, without finding any result, our geologists have advised us to abandon the well. So far our diligent search for oil, with the help of the most experienced geologists and the most up-to-date geophysical methods, has been entirely negative in all the new fields which we have examined. The Hurghada field is still our mainstay, but it cannot last for ever and the necessity for finding further productive territory is a matter which continually engages the attention of the board. We have recently been granted licences over two islands in the Red Sea, the prospects of which can only be further tested by the drill, and we have already decided the location for a well on one of these.

Some years ago it was decided to place the large sum of £100,000 to an exploration reserve. This reserve remains untouched, and we are always ready to use it for exploration work in Egypt whenever the Egyptian Government is willing to entrust to us the further examination of the oil prospects of the country on suitable terms. It is possible that, should a favourable opportunity occur, we should feel it desirable to devote a part of our cash reserves to exploration in some other country, the successful development of which would provide that outlet for the company's capital, staff and material which it may in the course of time be no longer possible to employ fully and profitably in Egypt.

Current Year's Prospects.

You will, perhaps, wish me to say a few words about our prospects for 1925, and while I cannot venture to give any forecast of the final results which we shall be able to put before you at this time next year, I can say that prices for our products are, on the whole, satisfactory, and our production so far is well maintained. We shall shortly complete a small addition to our dehydrating plant, from which we anticipate that even better results will be obtained; we shall also have in operation in a month or so a gas compression plant, which will enable us to recover a considerable amount of benzine from the natural gas on the field.

In conclusion, I feel sure that you will join with me in expressing our appreciation to our managers at Hurghada and Suez, and to our staff for the excellent services which they have rendered during the year. It is with the deepest regret that I have to record that one of our Hurghada staff died of typhoid at Suez last winter. This is the first loss we have experienced for many years, and is particularly to be regretted in that he was a young man of great promise who has only recently entered our service.

The report was unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

OCEAN SALVAGE AND TOWAGE.

The report of the Ocean Salvage and Towage Company, Ltd., states that there is a loss over the year's operations, due chiefly to an abnormal fall in salvage work in the area worked by the company's vessels. Statistics covering five consecutive pre-War and four consecutive post-War years show an average income from salvage operations which may be represented by an index number 100. The average income is practically unaltered whether it is based on three consecutive years, five consecutive years, or for the nine years. The minimum income during the nine years has an index number of 49. The company's income in 1924 corresponds to an index number of 18 only, hence it affords no criterion of the value of the new working arrangements. An index number of 55 would have eliminated the net loss shown in the revenue account. The index number for the five completed months of 1925 exceeds the average value, and the expenses for the year, based on those completed months, should be about £12,000 less than in 1924. Since the last annual meeting two of the vessels and some surplus salvage plant have been sold, with the net result that these sales exceed the written down. This shows that the values now stated are on a conservative basis. The Neptun Company, of Stockholm, in which the company are interested to the extent of 47½ per cent. of its share capital, has had a very satisfactory year. The whole of the preliminary expenses of the company have been written off, a dividend of 5 per cent. has been declared, and there is left about Kr. 22,500 to carry forward to next year's account.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., for the year ended April 30, 1925, states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels and making provision for taxation, the profits of the hotels were £53,167 15s. 2d., as compared with £68,023 0s. 8d., for 1924. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo, the accounts show a profit of £54,784 4s. 10d.; the balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £8,583 10s. 8d.—£63,367 15s. 6d. From this has to be deducted depreciation of plant, fixtures, and fittings at hotels, £5,000, leaving an available balance of £58,367 15s. 6d. 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, 1925, absorbing £5,750; (2) the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 35 per cent. for the year which will absorb £43,750—£49,500, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £8,867 15s. 6d. The proposal referred to in the reports for the last two years for the sale of the company's undetaking to the Societe des Grands Hotels d'Egypte has been definitely abandoned by mutual consent and an agreement approved by the shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting of the company held in Cairo on April 18, 1925, has been entered into between your company and the Societe des Grands Hotels d'Egypte. Under this agreement the four hotels of the Societe des Grands Hotels d'Egypte are leased to the company for a period of twenty-five years from May 1, 1925, the company purchasing the furniture of the leased hotels.

ATTOCK OIL.

The report of the Attock Oil Co., Ltd., for the year 1924 shows that the profit, including £606 brought from 1923, was £201,140. This figure is arrived at after charging up all well boring expenditure, and after providing £80,000 for depreciation on field and refinery plant. The directors recommend a dividend for the year of 10 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d. in the £, payable on and after July 4, leaving to be carried forward £51,140. The refinery has worked satisfactorily throughout the year, states the report, and the average crude production was maintained at practically the 1923 figure. Sales of refined products have shown a considerable increase, and were in excess of the equivalent quantity of crude oil produced during the year. Crude production from the Khaur field has since the end of 1924 shown some decline, and although it is anticipated that the increased drilling programme already well in hand will improve this position, it is unlikely that sales of products during 1925 can be maintained at the 1924 level. The directors therefore consider it advisable to carry forward a substantial portion of the profits.

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ASSAM RAILWAYS.

The Assam Railways and Trading Company has declared a dividend on the "A" stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable June 22, for the half-year ended December 31, 1924, on the new Five per Cent. preference shares at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable July 4, for the half-year, and on pre-preference "A" shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable July 4, for the half-year.

TEA RESULTS.

The report of the Ghoir Allie Tea Company states that the profit for 1924 was £5,630, subject to corporation tax. The balance available is £7,670, less income-tax written off £129. A final dividend is proposed of 50 per cent., less tax, making 100 per cent., leaving to be carried forward, subject to corporation tax, £2,539.

The profit of the Borjan Tea Company for 1924 was £11,878, subject to corporation tax The balance available is £16,425, less income-tax written off £353. A final dividend of 25 per cent., less tax, is proposed, making 40 per cent., leaving to be carried forward, subject to corporation tax, £6,469.

The profit of the Borjon Tea Company for 1924 was £11,878, subject to corporation tax. The balance available is £14,684, less income-tax written off £1,490. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making 45 per cent., carrying forward, subject to corporation tax, £1,493.

The report of the Romai Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, states that the profit was £19,385, plus £4,230 brought in. The directors recommend a final dividend of 70 per cent., less tax, making 100 per cent. for the year, carrying forward, subject to corporation profits tax, £7,607.

The profit of the Behubor Company for 1924 was £31,885, plus £38,437 brought forward and interest receipts, etc., making £70,520. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 20 per cent., making 40 per cent., carryin forward £45,017, subject to taxation.

The report of the Borduoi Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, states that the profit was £48,425, making available £58,342. A final dividend is proposed of 45 per cent., less tax, making 70 per cent. for the year, carrying forward, subject to corporation tax, £2,342.

The report of the Koomsong Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, states that the profit was £34,215, making available £37,643. The directors recommend a final dividend of 25 per cent., less tax, making 45 per cent. for the year, carrying forward, subject to corporation tax, £3,943.

The Jorehaut Tea Company recommends a final dividend of 30 per cent. (actual), less tax at 3s. 11.71d. in the £, payable July 3.

The profit of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company for 1924 was £44,279, plus £7,415 brought in, making £51,695. The directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary shares, making 30 per cent., transfer to general reserve £5,000, to taxation reserve £2,000, carrying forward £8,695.

The report of the Rupai Tea Company for 1924 states that the profit on crop account was £43,156, plus amount by which unsold stock of 1923 was undervalued £495, interest in Calcutta £363, interest in London £540, and £24,526 brought in, making £69,081. The income-tax account receives £1,500, corporation tax for 1923 absorbs £1,410, and Indian income-tax £1,290, leaves £64,880. The directors recommend a final dividend of 45 per cent., less tax, making 60 per cent., carrying forward £28,880.

The report of the Deamoolie Tea Company for 1924 states that the estimate was 1,080,000 lb. tea. The actual outturn was 1,095,545 lb., compared with 1,180,066 lb. made in 1923. The balance brought forward was £22,438. Adding crop profit £52,386, sum by which unsold stock of 1923 was under-valued £1,247, interest earned in Calcutta £352, interest in London £722, and transfer and registration fees £19, making £77,214. Deducting amount transferred to taxation reserve £2,000, and Indian income-tax £1,540, leaves £73,674. The directors recommend a final dividend of 60 per cent., less tax, making 75 per cent., carrying forward £28,674.

The report of the Meenglas Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, shows a balance of £28,306 at the credit of profit and loss. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent., carrying forward £2,793.

The report of the Kukicherra Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, showe a balance at the credit of profit and loss of £29,510. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 35 per cent., less tax, making 50 per cent., carrying forward £3,615.

The Ceylon Land and Produce Company has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. actual in respect of the year ending June 30 on the ordinary capital, payable July 1, less tax at 4s. 4½d.

The Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Company recommends a final ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent.

The report of the Tea Corporation (1921) for the year ended January 31, 1925, states that the profit, after providing interest on on debentures and writing off depreciation, was £10,410, plus £1,118 brought in, making £11,528. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent., transfer £2,000 to reserve, and carry forward £2,051.

The directors of the Assam Frontier Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 35 per cent., making 60 per cent. for the year.

The directors of the Surmah Valley Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent. on both classes of shares for the year ended December 31.

The Derby Tea Company recommends a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, making 35 per cent.

The profit of the Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, was £49,305, plus £18,761 brought in and £425 adjustment of 1923 accounts, making £68,490. The director recommend a final dividend of 17½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 30 per cent. for the year, carrying forward (subject to corporation profits tax for 1924 and directors' extra remuneration) £16,534.

The gross profit of the Cachar and Dooars Tea Company for 1924 was £50,934, less expenses, including share-splitting charges, reserve for taxation, and £7,500 to reserve, £22,789, leaving £28,144, plus £,7077 brought in, making £35,221. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 30 per cent., less tax, making 40 per cent., leaving £7,008 to be carried forward.

The net profit of the Jaipur Tea Company for 1924 was £30,525, plus £5,216 brought in. The directors recommend a final dividend of 25 per cent., less tax (making 35 per cent.), transfer to reserve £7,000, to taxation liability account £2,500, carrying forward £5,241 (subject to corporation tax).

The report of the Makum (Assam) Tea Company for 1924 states that the profit available is £34,379, after the interim dividend has been deducted. The directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., free of tax, making 30 per cent., placing £1,000 to hail insurance reserve, £10,000 to general reserve, and carrying £3,379 forward, subject to corporation tax.

The outturn of the Nedeem Tea Company for 1924 was 5,081,572 lb. The profit was £138,470, plus £21,363 brought in, and interest on investments £4,428. Income-tax absorbed £20,892, corporation tax (estimated) £1,731; Indian super-tax £2,196, leaving £139,442. The directors recommend a final ordinary dividend at 20 per cent., less tax, making 40 per cent., placing to machinery, tramways and buildings reserve £12,000, directors' extra remuneration £5,000, general reserve £5,000, and carrying forward £19,925.

The report of the Dooars Tea Company for 1924 states that one of the worst droughts on record in early months of year, and severe mosquito blight in latter part curtailed the plucking season, with the result that the crop fell short of the preceding year by 1,102,696 lb. Including the amount brought forward, the balance available is £160,954. The ad-interim dividend of 12½ per cent. paid on the old ordinary capital absorbed £34,125, and the directors recommend a final dividend of 30 per cent., appropriating £1,000 to provident fund, and carrying forward £22,290, subject to corporation tax.

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. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 4). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkhenhead, July 1).

British India Line.—S.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 4); s.s. Nalgora for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 27).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Lahore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 25); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 4); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 11).

P. and O. Line.—S s. China for Bombay (London, June 26); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 9).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, July 1).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*OLYMPIA, June 26.	*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
*CASTALIA, July 7.	*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.
*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and wit Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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CZECHO-SLOVAK JOINT STOCK COMPANIES IN 1924.

Industrial and commercial enterprises in Czecho-Slovakia made a further advance in 1924. The number of new companies formed was 88, the subscribed capital being Kc. 448,985,000.

The net increase in the number of industrial and commercial joint stock companies in 1924 was 43, the total number at the close of the year being 1,236. The gross increase of capital (including new companies) was Kc. 1,164,954,000. Liquidations, dissolutions and reductions of capital amounted in all to Kc. 245,966,000, so that the net growth of capital was Kc. 918,988,000.

With the incorporation of Slovakia in the Czecho-Slovak Republic, the question of transport in that country has become important, and 11 of the new companies promoted last year with an aggregate subscribed capital of Kc. 121,085,000 have their seat in Slovakia. In addition to these promotions in Slovakia, two other similar companies were promoted in Bohemia with a capital of Kc. 30,000,000, so that the transport group is the financially strongest among the new promotions.

Next on the list of new promotions are the companies connected with foodstuffs and provisions trade, numbering 25, with a subscribed capital of Kc. 101,450,000, promoted in practically equal numbers in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia.

In the textile trade the new promotions numbered 9, with an aggregate capital of Kc. 53,190,000, while increases of capital to the extent of Kc. 135,302,000 were made by 9 other companies, so that there was a total growth of new capital to the amount of Kc. 188,452,000.

Electrical and gas supply undertakings account for an effective increase of capital to the amount of Kc. 122,820,000, the new promotions, 3 in number, having a capital of Kc. 27,820,000, while 5 existing concerns augmented their capital by Kc. 95,000,000. In the electrical engineering trade 4 new companies were promoted with a capital of Kc. 35,250,000, while increases of capital were made to the amount of Kc. 157,150,000. Reductions, however, totalled Kc. 48,300,000, so that the net increase was Kc. 108,850,000. The chemical industry was responsible for an augmentation of Kc. 74,806,000 in capital, while the reductions of capital amounted to no more than Kc. 3,884,000.

While the year 1924 was thus generally favourable for industrial and commercial undertakings, one or two groups, such as the woodworking industries, hosiery trade, film and theatrical enterprises, show an all-round diminution of capital.

NEW COMPANY.

Cyprus Silk Filature.

The Cyprus Silk Filature, Ltd., has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £20,000, in £1 shares, to establish and work mulberry plantations, a silk filature or filatures, and any other factory in the Island of Cyprus and any other country in Europe or Asia, etc. First directors:—M. Breton, 2 Cumnor Place, Sutton, Surrey, merchant's manager; J. Goodman,, Fairacre, Chislehurst, Kent, merchant; J. M. Du Buicson, Cheriton, Dartford Road, Sevenoaks, merchant; G. M. Stuart, Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, merchant. The registered office is at 18 Laurence Pountney Lane, E.C.

ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH WATER TURBINES.

When guns and battleships are spoken of the name of "Armstrongs" comes naturally to the mind, yet the great firm with its works on the Tyne at Newcastle has for years been famed, more perhaps amongst engineers than the general public, for bridges and cranes and many other commercial products. After all engineering is engineering in every sphere of life, the basic principles are the same and in all spheres where engineering success is met with the foundation of all is common sense and sound workmanship.

It is no wonder, therefore, that what may be called the

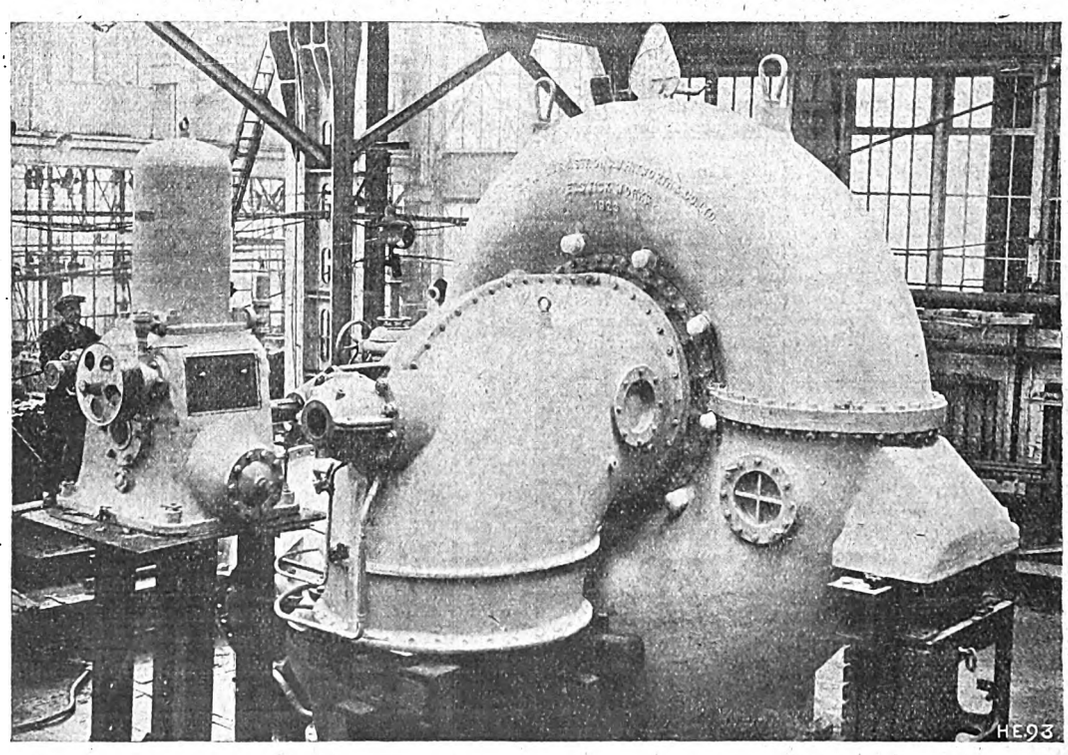

Fig. 2.

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post-War products of Armstrong Whitworth are met with in all parts of the world, e.g., their marine Diesel engines, their locomotives, their water turbines, to mention only a few. It is, however, particularly of water turbines that it is desired to speak in this short note, water power playing such an important part in the industrial development of the resources of any country.

Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co., Ltd., began the manufacture of water turbines in May, 1920, and now their turbines are running in Great Britain, Newfoundland, Nigeria, Australia, India, Ceylon, New Zealand, and elsewhere with an output of some 200,000 h.p.

The illustration above (Fig. 1) shows a 14,000 h.p. water turbine now running in Newfoundland.

Fig. 2 is of particular interest as shownig the first water turbine ever installed in Tibet, where it is used for, amongst other purposes, operating an electric furnace for the Mint.

The important part played in the development of water power by many of the firm's different works is shown in Fig. 3, which gives a view of "Sections of Steel Pipe Lines ready for shipment at the Armstrong Shipyards on the Tyne," while Fig. 4 shows a number of the pipes erected on site.

The kinship between a "Spiral Francis Turnone" and a turbine pump has led the firm to take up the manufacture of turbine pumps and they have recently purchased the pump business of the Boving Engineering Works, an article on whose pumps appeared in THE NEAR EAST as long ago as 1912. Some of these pumps are working in the colleries of the East Indian Railway Company.

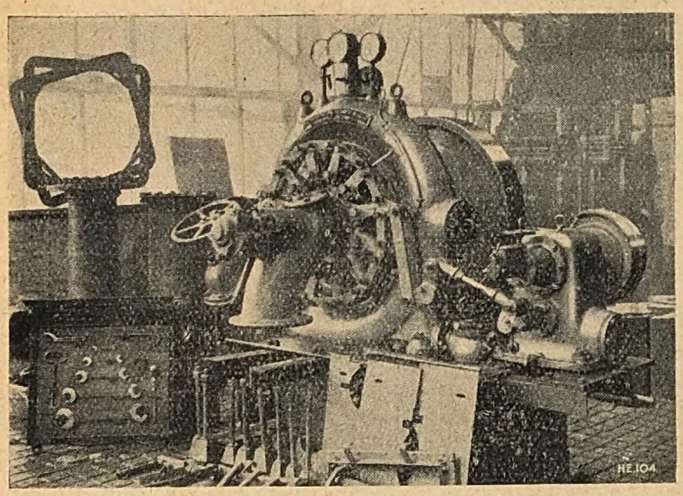

Fig. 2.

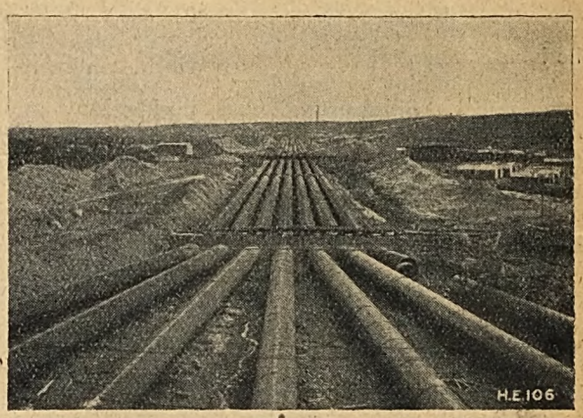

Fig. 4.

As may be remembered efficiency in large turbo pumps plays a very important part in reducing the running expenses of companies using such pumps, and if we take a pump running continually and consuming 50 h.p. at a cost of, say, ½d. per unit and working at an efficiency of 80 per cent. the cost of the power bill for the year's work amounts to £750. If, on the other hand, we take a pump running continually and consuming 53 h.p. at an efficiency of 75 per cent. for the same duty the cost is £800, showing that the value of the extra efficiency is £50 per annum. making it well worth while to employ a high efficiency pump such as those now made by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co., Ltd.

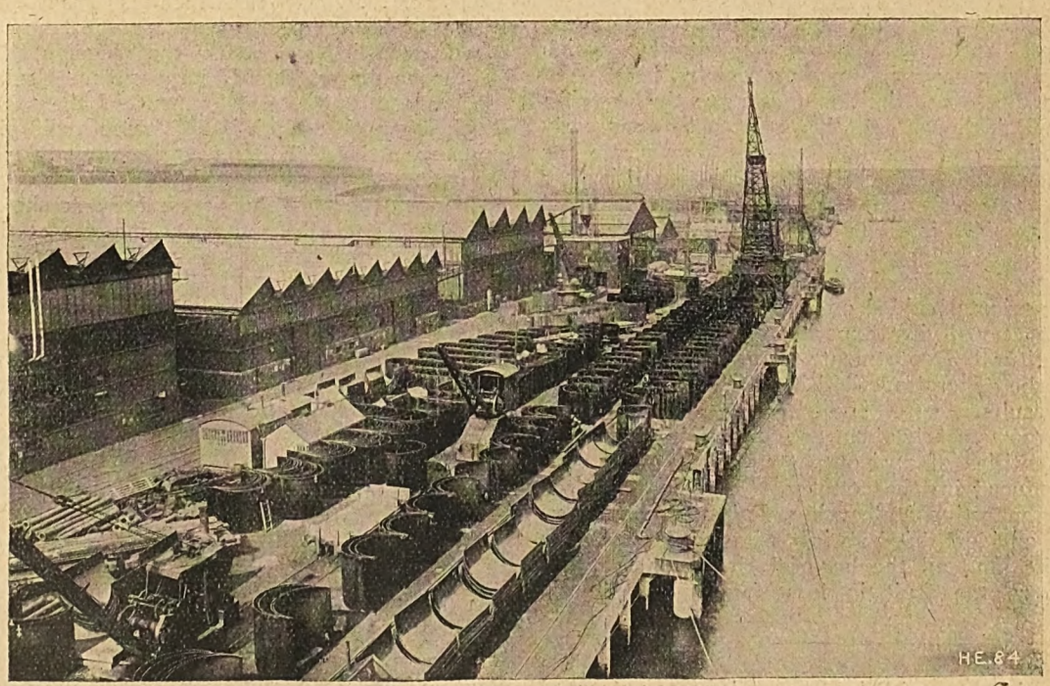

Fig. 3.

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 20 states:—

There has been no change in the condition of this market, and the state of depression still continues. In the the absence of any single feature to stimulate buyers there has been no demand of importance from any of the foreign markets. Raw cotton prices show a tendency to harden which Manchester is by no means disposed to follow.

Yarn.—An unsatisfactory state of affairs has prevailed and the quietness to which spinners using American cotton have for so long been accustomed is now in a large measure being shared by spinners of Egyptian. The lack of demand is largely attributed to the continued atmosphere of doubt regarding the maintenance of raw cotton prices. Shipments of yarn during May amounted to 17,203,200 lb. as compared with 16,583,300 in April and 18,029,100 lb. in May of last year.

Cloth.—A disappointing tone continues. Order lists are being rapidly depleted, and the position of manufacturers therefore is gradually weakening. From one or two quarters it is said that orders for certain markets have been slightly better than during the preceding week, though, in a general way, nothing very cheerful can be said except as regards the Home Trade, which is showing a little seasonal activity. Shipments of cloth during May amounted to 371,028,200 sq. yds. as compared with 333,428,800 sq. yds. in April and 394,513,000 sq. yds. in May of last year.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, raw cotton markets have maintained a steady tone. As usual at this time of the year reports from America are exceedingly numerous and there appears to be little doubt that, generally speaking, the crop is progressing favourably; the doubtful points at the moment are the drought in Texas and the activity of the boll-weevil. Quotations are approximately ¼d. higher on the week. In Egyptian, on the other hand, there has been a fall of over 1d. per lb., demand having been very quiet. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.62; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 31.30.

APRICOT GROWING IN PALESTINE.

The climate of Palestine is very favourable for apricot growing and also for drying (says Mr. A. Grasowsky in an article on the drying of apricots in the Palestine *Commercial Bulletin*). Palestine produces to-day about 600 tons of fresh apricots, the larger percentage of which is of a very inferior variety known as "Klaby."

There are a number of limiting factors to the growing of apricots in Palestine:—(1) The apricot blossoms early in spring, and any rain, wind, or cold may cause the total loss of the crop. The tree is very brittle and is very apt to break. (2) Serious damage to the fruit is caused by the fruit fly, which is difficult to combat. (3) A great drawback is the prevalence of Gummosis in all apricots budded on almonds. This disease is much less noticeable, however, on apricots budded on apricots or myrabolan.

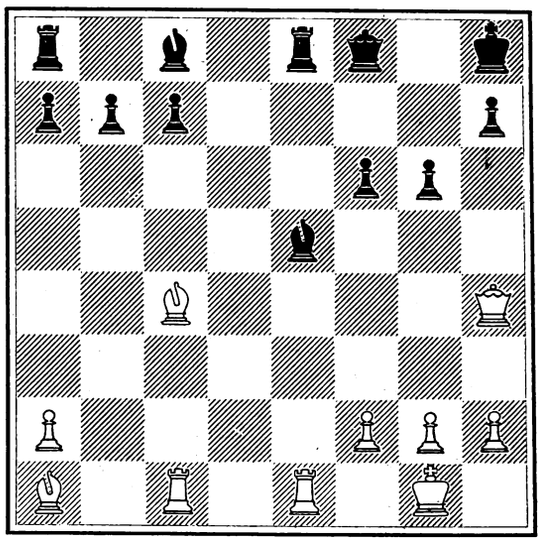
During last year drying experiments were carried out by the Agricultural Department to ascertain the best varieties and the general possibilities of the industry with satisfactory results.

Palestine imports yearly about 200 tons of dried apricots and large quantities of apricot paste, which could very easily be produced in the country. Utilising modern methods of preparation and curing, Palestinian growers could market an ideal dried apricot of good flavour, free of insects, dirt, and all the harmful chemicals that are used to preserve the fruit in less favourable climatic conditions.

Mr. Bernhard Baron, of Brighton, on June 21 presented a cheque for £10,000 at a reception organised by the Brighton and Hove Zionist Society, at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton, for the Jewish University in Jerusalem.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



Interrupting the series of end games proper this week, I give a most curious position which occurred in a match game some time ago. The opening was the Evans Gambit, and the player of White, Mr. C. M. Payne, played in the above position R—B3. I will leave my readers to work out some of the developments and sacrifices arising from that move, and will give the termination of the game next week.

Solution to end-game No. 3: 1 R—K2 (ch), K—Q2; 2 R—K5, K—Q3; 3 K—B8, R—B8 (ch); 4 K—K8, R—K Kt8; 5 R—K7 and wins. If Black plays 1. . . .K—Q3; then 2 K—B8, R—B8 (ch); 3 K—K8, R—K Kt8; 4 R—K7 and wins.

I pointed out recently that I proposed, when time and occasion served, to deal with some of the principal openings and defences. This week I propose to make a few remarks about the Caro-Kann Defence. The opening moves, as is well known, are 1. P—K4, P—QB3; 2. P—Q4, P—Q4. Here there are many variations, one of them, in my opinion, supremely favourable for White, while in the case of the rest Black can get a very good if rather dull game. I will take the variation satisfactory for White first. This is 3. PxP, PxP; 4. P—QB4. This last move is a definite threat, and opens the way for the deployment of the White forces in the best conditions. It almost forces 4. . . .P—K3, which is the last move that Black wishes to play at once, for the whole secret of the defence lies in getting the Queen's Bishop out. If P—K3 be played this is impossible. Usually the game continues with the development of the two Knights by Black, but ultimately it is difficult to avoid playing P—K3 shutting in the Bishop. A variation popular for White at the moment, but which I think unsatisfactory is 4. P—Q3. It leads to nothing definite and Black should have little difficulty in obtaining something more than equality. Very often, however, White avoids what may be called the exchange variations and instead of 3. PxP plays Kt—QB3 which is answered by PxP; 4. KtxP, Kt—KB3. Here again there are various possibilities. White can take the Knight and Black can retake with either the King's Pawn or the Knight's Pawn. The latter gives a safe game; the former involves certain risks, but in some cases opens up greater attacking possibilities. If White retreats the Knight to K Kt3 Black can obtain a good game without difficulty. This variation indeed gives the second player quite a free game.

According to *The Times* Nairobi correspondent, Uganda is contributing £2,000 towards the cost of the Kisumu-Khartoum air survey, thus following the lead of Kenya. Captain Gladstone, representative of the Blackburn Aeroplane Company, is conferring with the Sudan authorities in London on the subject, and at the end of this month will go to Brussels to enlist Belgian interest in the scheme.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 11, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has fluctuated within a rather narrow range; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis, 0.95 dollars up for July, 0.71 dollars up for November, 0.80 dollars up for January. Ashmouni, 0.08 dollars up for June, 0.15 dollars up for August, 0.12 dollars up for October, 0.10 dollars up for December.

In Sakel old crop there has been no feature of interest; little new business has passed and the few operations which have taken place have been mostly in liquidation of old positions. Export houses have remained out of the market, as the demand from abroad has been rather small and principally in the qualities not tenderable. June and August Ashmouni have been moderately dealt in; prices have more or less followed the daily fluctuations of New York. No dockets have been issued so far against June. November Sakel and October Ashmouni have attracted the bulk of the activity of the market; operations, however, have been almost exclusively of a speculative character as spinners' interest for new crop shipments has again been rather poor. In Liverpool, Egyptians have been firmer and the difference between the two markets has narrowed considerably. The stocks there are getting low and the position is thus gaining strength; naturally, no replenishment of stocks can be expected before the new season. This week's receipts amount to 20,626 crs. against exports 69,741 crs.; the stock stands at 751,376 crs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been moderately active this week and sales amount to about 4,000 B/s, of which we estimate 1,700 B/s Sakel, 2,200 B/s Uppers, 100 B/s Zagora and a few bales of Pilion and White.

Sakellarides: Has been in moderate request. All qualities have been dealt in, but the medium and lower grades have attracted most attention. Spot differences are generally rather easier with the exception of Fully Good Fair and Good, which are without change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have met with a fair demand covering all grades, although Good and better have only found a very small inquiry. Spot differences are steady and unchanged.

Pilion: Only a few bales have been done. Spot parities are unchanged.

Brown: No business is reported. Quotations of spot are nominal at last week's rates.

White: A few bales only have changed hands and the market has not really been tested. Spot differences are quoted a little easier.

Crop 1925: We have had good weather during the past week and the plant has benefited in recovering some of its initial backwardness. Water supply has been adequate for present needs although a few complaints have been heard.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for May reads:

The weather was on the whole favourable. The crop has made a good recovery from the effects of bad climatic conditions and pest attacks (chiefly sore-shin and cutworm) which occurred in April and were especially noticeable towards the latter end of that month. The condition is now about or a little below normal for the time of the year. A few cotton worm egg-masses appeared in small areas in Lower Egypt and were immediately dealt with. Resowing in late districts, thinning, hoeing, watering and manuring were the principal operations of the month. Some flowers appeared in early-sown crops.

The rate of conversion from metallic currency to bank notes for the payment of the Greek Customs duties on wheat flour, with or without bran, is now to be taken at 6.50 paper drachmæ to 1 metallic drachma.

The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that a sum of £T2,000,000 has been guaranteed by the Turkish Government for requirements necessary for the maintenance of the Government railways, and in this connection he is informed that it is the intention of the railway authorities to purchase by direct negotiations with firms approximately 1,500 steel tyres of all sizes for carriages, wagons, and locomotives, as well as standard "screw and safety" couplings—Continental type.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

INDIA.

Diesel engine alternator sets, etc.—The Indian Stores Department, Simla, invites tenders for the supply of Diesel engine alternator sets, mechanical water cooling units, main oil fuel storage tanks, oil purifier equipment, ten ton overhead crane, power station switchboard and cables, transformers, switchboards and cables, etc. July 20. (D.O.T.)

EGYPT.

Binding Cloth.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of binding cloth and type-metal. July 15.

Steel Index Cabinets.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of 18 steel index cabinets. September 8.

Hides, Black.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for hides, black collar, 300 lb.; hides, black bridle, 400 lb.; hides, bridle, enamelled, 1,200 lb. July 21.

Blankets.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for blankets, travellers, 2,500; blankets, white, fine, 500. July 21.

Nails and Shoes.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for shoes, horse and mule, about 5,400 pairs. Nails, horse and mule, about 150,000. July 21.

Timber, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Kasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of raw materials, i.e., timber, leather, iron bars, paints, tools, etc., for the year 1925-26. August 1.

CYPRUS.

Mail Steamship Service between Cyprus and Egypt.—The Government of Cyprus invites tenders for a mail steamship service between Cyprus and Egypt. All tenders must be lodged on or before September 1. The services required commence on January 1, 1926, and the Government of Cyprus is prepared to enter into a contract for the continuance of such services for a period of not less than three years with the successful tenderer. The steamship carrying the mails must be a ship registered as a British ship and flying the British flag. All tenders should be sealed and addressed, as should be all other communications relative to this service, to the Colonial Secretary, Nicosia, Cyprus. The mail contractors will be required to bind themselves not to refuse any general cargo which may be offered for transport, provided the freightage is tendered and the necessary accommodation is available, nor to grant preferential rates in respect of passengers or goods transported. The Government of Cyprus does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Further particulars regarding this tender can be obtained by interested British firms on application to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

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Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
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Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale, Pera.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia :— *Chief Office, TEHERAN.*
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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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GREECE.
Central Office :
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office :
ALEXANDRIA.
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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.67.50.000**

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London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Poin, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS,

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza. Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK OF ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893.

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DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000 **Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLE-MARTIN, Esq.
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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 **Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000**
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

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§NALGORA	6,500 ...	July 4 ...	July 11 ...	Bombay and Karachi
‡MALDA	8,000 ...	July 11 ...	July 18 ...	Madras and Calcutta
§WARFIELD	6,060 ...	July 25 ...	Aug. 1 ...	Bombay and Karachi
§HATIMURA	6,666 ...	July 25 ...	Aug. 1 ...	Madras and Calcutta
*MULBERA	9,100 ...	July 25 ...	Aug. 7 ...	East African Ports
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City of Calcutta	7,679	July 11	Bombay & Karachi
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†*City of Canterbury	8,421	Sep. 3	Bombay & Karachi
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